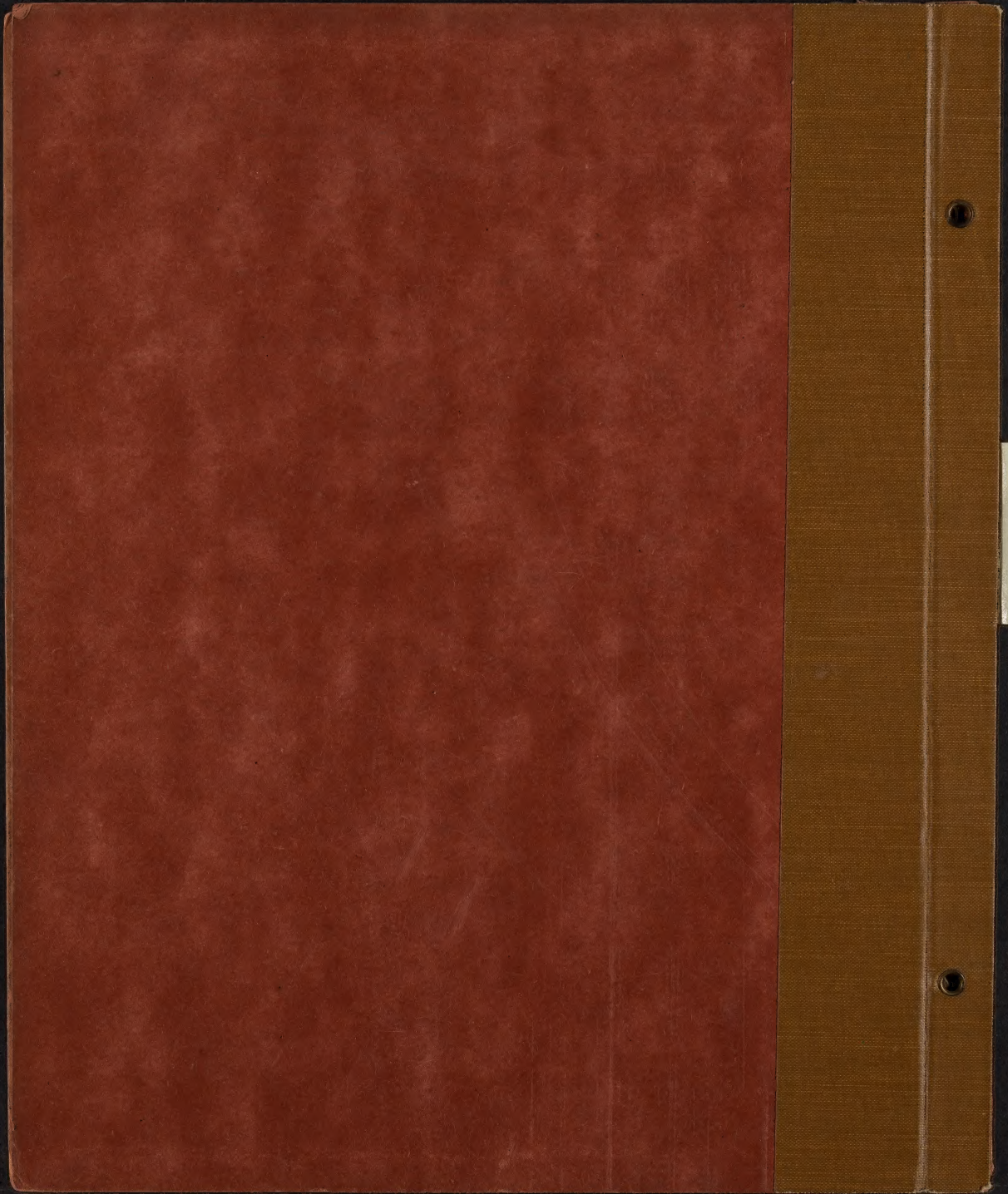


Journal - 1906.

FROM
WILLIAM BREWSTER,
15 BRATTLE ST.,
CAMBRIDGE, - MASS.



Cambridge, Mass.

1906

January 8

A Shrike has appeared in our garden several times of late. On December 16 (1905) I saw him fix the remains of a House Sparrow in the fork of a slender branch of the Portulacaria apple tree. He stood on the branch just behind the fork and pulled and tugged at the Sparrow with all his might for a minute or two sometimes fluttering his wings. After securing the Sparrow in this way he tore off one or two small fragments of its ^{feathers} without removing them from their original positions. After this he flew away. I then examined the remains and found that they consisted only of the tail and legs attached to the hinder part of the body. As so much of the flesh had been eaten and as what remained was frozen hard the bird must have been killed a day or two ago.

Northern
Shrike in
our garden,
carrying a
Sparrow.

The Shrike was next seen on December 26. About noon of the following day Mr. F. H. Chapman saw him enter the Garden from the direction of Sparks Street in hot pursuit of a House Sparrow. The latter sought refuge in the tangle of lilacs & other shrubbery at the base of one house but the Shrike followed him closely through them ~~hopping~~ both birds hopping from twig to twig where the branches were too dense to permit flight. On reaching the eastern end of the thicket the Sparrow again took wing and at once passed out of Mr. Chapman's sight but the agonized outcry, which the poor bird uttered on instant later announced that it had been overtaken & stricken down, no doubt in flight. Half a minute after this Mr. Chapman found it on the lawn with the Shrike standing within a few inches of it clutching a few final blows at its still writhing body. Soon after this the Shrike seized the Sparrow in its bill and, after flying a few yards, transferred it to its feet thus carrying it off out of sight in an easterly direction.

Shrike seen
to kill
another
Sparrow.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906

January 8
(No 2)

Northern
Shrike

The Shrike has not been noted in our garden since December 27 until to-day although during this winter Carl Budgett in the remains of what we think would have been a third Sparrow, which had been killed and suspended in a fork in the trees. The Shrike was first seen this morning, about nine o'clock, by Walter Deane, carrying in its bill a bird which looked like a House Sparrow but which was not certainly identified it flew across the flower beds to the cedar tree by the pond where it spent some time eating its victim after first fixing it in a fork by the usual process of tugging and pulling.

At home or so later the Shrike appeared in a cherry tree near my window where it remained several minutes singing a little. Most of the notes which it uttered on this occasion were harsh and unmistakable but all of them were evidently song, not call, notes. This Shrike is a brownish bird and evidently not very mature although the black markings on its head are nearly black and very conspicuous. Since it has haunted the garden the House Sparrows have nearly ceased to appear there and the birds of the Chickadees are also becoming less and less frequent.

1906.

Jan'y 27.

The weather continues mild over the entire East. So far as I can learn there is little or no snow anywhere south of the Canada border. Coming from Washington on January 25th I noticed that the grass was green and the ponds (even the smallest ones) free from ice as far north as Southern Connecticut. In Cambridge the leaves show faint shades of green & the roads are dry and dusty. There is little frost in the ground. Things look much as they did in mid November. Indeed the entire winter thus far may be aptly described as a prolonged November. The warmest weather was on January 21 when the thermometer rose to 69°. The trolley lines ran nearly open cars that day and some of our neighbors (among them Mrs. Delage who is over eighty years of age) were seen sitting on their piazzas without overcoats or outer wraps of any kind. Birds have been exceedingly scarce, as is nearly always the case during mild winters.

My foreman, Daniel Jones, who came from Concord Wild Cat! to-day reports much local excitement there over a supposed old Concord Wild Cat which has been seen of late by Mrs. Abbott Lawrence and her son Gardner Lawrence near their home and by Benson in the Green Field. They describe it as a grizzled animal with a bob tail. It is supposed to be the creature of a loud, prolonged, Owl-like cry which has been heard repeatedly at evening in the woods behind Lawrence's. Jones also tells me that he saw a Deer last Tuesday (23rd) Deer feeding in Lawrence's field opposite the Bungalow.

Mr. De Meitt tells me that he saw a Wilson's Snipe Snipe in the evening of January 23rd flying over one of the ponds in the Neck Bog Farm. Boston

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.

Feb. 26

Clear and warm with light W. wind.

There has been no real winter this year but simply November weather prolonged through the months of December, January, and most of February. Early spring is already here, two weeks or more before its time. The last snow disappeared on the 21st of February and the next morning I found a dozen or more big white snow drifts in the bed in front of the house. They were partly open on the morning of the 23rd and fully open on the 25th. This morning I saw yellow, white and purple crocuses in bloom in front of a house on Channing Street. The grass is faintly green on the lawns and strongly so on sunny banks. There has been little frost in the ground at any time and the streets and garden paths are now dry and apparently settled.

Early Spring.

Flickers began 'shouting' on the morning of the 20th, I have since heard them in the garden almost every morning but their 'shouting' calls have been somewhat abbreviated and disconnected, as well as lacking in spirit, until this morning when I heard two birds uttering the full spring song at short, regular intervals for many consecutive minutes. One was in the pine in the Smith place on Brattle Street, the other in an elm near the Botanic Garden.

Flickers shouting.

One or two Flickers have frequented our garden daily of late to feed on the fruit of the Callunæ's apple. On the morning of the 12th I saw certainly three and I think four different birds in this garden.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.

Feb. 26
(no 2)

As I was watching a Flicker this morning, in one of the big elms on Sumner Street, opposite the Botanic Garden, a Sparrow Hawk stooped at it, evidently in play, passing within a foot of it. The Flicker gave a perceptible start but did not leave its perch. The Sparrow Hawk then alighted on a dead branch near the top of the tree and within ten feet of the Flicker. Here it remained several minutes, preening its feathers. A funeral procession passed through the street directly beneath it without alarming it and the bird did not seem to notice me as I stood on the sidewalk looking up at it. The tree it was in is full of holes in some of which Screech Owls have nested for many years. I wonder if the Sparrow Hawks are thinking of nesting there this season!

Four or five Chickadees, collected in the cluster of lilacs at the rear of our house, were indulging, early yesterday morning, in a performance which I have often witnessed in early spring. They were continuously flying back and forth, or in irregular circles, over and through the lilacs, making frequent sharp, angular turns and sometimes doubling back. They moved in short, jerky, undulating flights quite different from those which they make on ordinary occasions. Sometimes three or four birds would be on wing at once, sometimes but one or two. Often one would follow in the track of another, several yards in the rear, and evidently, as it seemed to me, in playful but rather listless pursuit of the leading bird. It seemed to be a kind of signal dance or Chickadee minuet, as nearly as I could understand it. The birds chirped a good deal but did not utter either the fluster call.

Odd behavior
of a flock of
Chickadees.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.

March 6

Clear with light W. wind.

Scrub Owls have been repeatedly seen or heard of a pair of
Cats in our garden. On February 21 Kael saw certainly Scrub Owls
one and he thought two in the early morning before it was in our
fully light. One was seen above the barn then by Spelman. Gordon
C. heard one whining in the binders about four o'clock this
morning. She thought the sound was like those we hear in
autumn & not the somewhat different spring whining.

At 6.20 this evening Kael told us that he had just
seen an Owl fly from the red cedar at the base of our
house into the garden. I went out at once and soon
saw a red bird perched in a cherry tree, low down.
It sat erect and motionless until I got within 20 ft. when
it began bobbing its head up & down. The next instant
it flew across the flower garden and alighted in the
elms. Immediately after this another Owl flew
from the birches into the fir by the pond. Approaching
it closely I found that it was a gray bird, a size
larger than the first and no doubt a female. When
I got within about 15 ft. it took a short flight &
alighted in a maple in the jungle. Both birds on
starting to fly shot down towards the ground and then
curved upward as they reached the branch on which they
alighted. The bird that crossed the garden vibrated its wings
slowly and rapidly at first and sailed on its wings for
the terminal third of its flight. The other bird described a
much deeper curve and gave only a few flaps just after
leaving its perch. I suspect these birds may be intending to
breed in the garden. It is singular that they are so easily
seen. Bothwell has seen a pair of Scrub Owls in the College
Yard a few weeks ago.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.

March 15

Wickens sometimes climb the trunks of trees in the manner characteristic of other and more typical Woodpeckers stopping to tap at decayed places and prying off occasional scales of loose bark. They do all this, however, in a listless, perfunctory kind of way as if they were not deeply interested in the quest for grubs by such means nor very sanguine as to its material successes. I doubt if they often obtain much of their food in this manner. They have been feeding through the winter, in our garden, on the fruit of Potamogeton's apple. Usually there are no more than one or two birds in the tree at once but on two occasions we have seen four there together. They approach at all hours but oftenest in the forenoon. As a rule they bend forward and downward to get the apple perching, this action rather clumsily and often spreading their tails and half opening their wings in their efforts to keep their balance. The tiny apples are picked off one at a time, with considerable deliberation, and are swallowed whole.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.

March 15

(2)

A remarkably handsome Bullock's Oriole, very light in general coloring and with deep black head markings, appeared in our garden this forenoon during a snow storm. It sang almost continuously for fifteen or twenty minutes. Its repertoire was limited and uninteresting. Most of the notes that it used were disagreeably harsh or shrill and some of them were repeated a dozen times or more with little or no variation. Some of them were very jay-like. All were given slowly and deliberately with distinct and often rather wide intervals between each utterance and the next following one. The bird's voice was louder and stronger than common.

Concord, Mass.

1906.

April 6

Cloudy with 2 or 3 h. W. wind.

Came to Concord along Cote yesterday afternoon and spent the night in the village at the Colonial (formerly the Thoreaus) House. A Robin in full song about sunrise.

Edmond Emerson called in the forenoon. He said that a few "Grays" were heard for the first time on the evening of the 4th and that "they were in full cry" last evening.

I inferred that they were Hylas but he did not say so.

James came for me at 2 P.M. and we drove to the farm where I am to remain for the present as I have a rheumatic knee and cannot walk much. I had intended to go to the cabin to begin with but that is out of the question just now.

On the drive down I saw no birds save a flock of 5 or 7 of Sparrows near Proctor and then Bluebirds opposite Peter's. A Robin sang well for a couple of minutes at evening in the big elm near the farm house.

Mr. Emerson told me that no Geese have been reported to him this Spring but that Henry says that he saw a flock of 20 passing over the village on April 4.

The river is over the woods but not nearly so high as it usually is at this time. The snow is all gone in the fields but there are drifts under pines in the woods. The grass is brown & before everywhere and the country wears a dreary, barren aspect.

March 1, 1905.

1706

April 7

Beautifully clear with fresh, cool N. W. wind. The ground faster heat last night. Jones says the thermometer stood at 26° at 6 a.m.

A Robin, a Bluebird, and a Fox Sparrow were singing near the house about sunrise. Later in the morning I heard a few Song Sparrows and Juncos, a Nuthatch and a Thriller. There are evidently comparatively few migrating Sparrows about the place but whether they have passed or are still to come I do not know. About 4 P.M. Wood Frogs were croaking by dozens in the pond below the orchard and I heard a few in the meadows across the road. As I heard no Hylas I begin to think that Mr. Gurnee's "frogs" were here. Gurn Wood Frogs.

A pair of White-bellied Nuthatches spent some of the forenoon in the dens near the house. The σ uttered his hā hā-hā-hā-hā-hā at frequent intervals. Although far from musical this call has a very pleasing quality to my ear. It is more joyous than our waste bird songs.

I am more and more impressed, as I get older, with the soft, or at least, pleasing quality of most music, especially that heard on this season. The Song Sparrows are still singing the low, plaintive notes that they use so much for the first week or two after their arrival.

I saw a σ Cooper's Hawk this afternoon flying westward over the pines near the Dutch place. He was moving slowly, with alternate flapping and gliding, in a perfectly straight course.

1906.

April 8

Clear and, for the season, cold with high, keen N.W. to N.E. winds.

At sunrise a Phoebe was in full song near the house. I saw him later in the day in the woods and also about the barn. I think he must have come last night.

Yesterday we scattered a great quantity of millet and grass seed over the ground out in front of the house. As I had hoped would be the case it has already attracted a number of Fringilline birds. There were fifteen or more juncos, at least two and I think three or four Fox Sparrows and several Song Sparrows feeding on the seed this morning. The Fox Sparrows looked up to several gleaming bursts of their iridescent blue. Song Sparrows were singing everywhere. Bluebirds seen seven. I heard only one to-day. A Purple Finch flew over the orchard calling. Red-bellied Hawks screaming in the distance.

Last night about eleven o'clock I was awakened from a sound sleep by the hooting of a Barred Owl, the first I ever heard here. At first, when still but half-awake, I took it for the hooting of a locomotive. The bird was very near at hand. I think in one of the clumps, by the wood, just below the house. I heard him five or six times. He gave only the terminal half of the full hoot i.e. hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo-a. It was a clear night with a moon full moon.

A Crow perched on the topmost spray of a pine made a rattling noise closely like that of a woodchuck's rattled tail. He kept twitting the top of his wings nervously as he rattled on.

1906

April 9

Cloudy with strong and intensely chilly N.E. wind which brought a snow storm that began shortly before dawn. At 9 P.M. (at 9 P.M.) the ground is covered with snow to the depth of one or two inches.

Drove nearly to Corvallis this forenoon. The country exceedingly heavy-looking without the slightest trace of green grass even on Hultman Southern exposures. Alder catkins fully green and almost in blossom. White berry willows gleaming by the roadsides. No other signs of advancing vegetation. Birds of a few kinds rather common. Saw at least fifteen Robins scattered about in the fields. There are plenty of Bluebirds. Saw them in pairs and singly to the number of 16 or 18. Song Sparrows were evenly distributed in suitable places but not so abundant as they usually are at this season. Noted one flock of Junco (about 15) and 10 Fox Sparrows (5 of them in one place) besides 2 at the farm. A larger Crowbird feeding on the ground in a grassy field was the only Blackbird of any kind that I have seen in Grout this Spring.

At 9 o'clock last night I heard the Barred Owl twice in the distance towards Birch Field and apparently not far from Poplar Hill. He gave the full hoarse call twice with the usual deep hoarse who-a at the end. The full moon had just risen above the trees and was shining from a cloudless sky.

Barred Owl.
(April 8)

While listening to the Owl I heard Hylas for the first time this Spring. Their peeping came from almost every direction but there seemed to be only one or two in each place.

Tree Hylas
(April 8)

1906.

April 10

Cloudy with chill N. E. wind changing to N. W. in P. M.
Fine, misty rain in forenoon. It rained heavily before daylight
but the country was white with snow up to 7 a.m.

Purdie and I worked down the road after breakfast.
Song Sparrows singing on every hand. Two Blue Jays (the first
I have noted) screaming. On reaching the Kitchen / Door we
heard a Grass Finch in full song and presently another
further off in Horv's pasture. A few minutes later two
Carolina Doves began cooing in the tall woods bordering
the road to Berwyn. We returned through the wood land
that leads across the run. Here we found perfectly fresh
tracks of a medium-sized Raccoon. They were printed
with exquisite clearness in the thin layer of damp snow.
The animal's long claw marks and plantigrade feet were
beautifully shown. We traced him to and into the barn
that leads to the barn where the snow faded us. He must
have passed that way only an hour or two before we did
for the snow had been melting rapidly yet I never saw
fresher or clearer tracks.

Grass Finches
&
Carolina Doves
arrived

Raccoon
tracks

The cooing of a Carolina Dove regularly begins, or rather
is preceded by, a low murmuring note given with a rising
inflection. This is ordinarily given but once before each set
of cooing notes. The whole may be written urrrk (or muurrk) coo;
coo, coo. Sometimes the murmuring sound is repeated several
times before it is followed by the coos. This morning a
bird uttered it a dozen or more times at short intervals
without cooing at all. This murmur is closely similar
to that produced by a domestic Pigeon when disturbed
on her nest.

Notes of
Carolina
Doves.

1906

April 13

Clear, calm, warm. The most spring-like day for weeks. Max temp. 64°

During the past two days we have seen nothing worthy of record. It is true that I have been rather closely confined as the horse Gen. Peck has ranged widely through woods and fields. He visited Boll's field yesterday afternoon but there were actually no birds there. Most of those that we have seen have been very near the farm house. Three Fox Sparrows have appeared both days on the bank in front of the porch & we had a Pine Warbler and a pair of Juncos there yesterday afternoon.

There were plenty of birds this morning and indeed all through the day. The Fox Sparrows were the most numerous and conspicuous for there were no less than twelve of them and when they were not feeding on the bank under the porch windows they were mostly seen to be singing in the apple trees or in the big forget-me-not bush by the well. Rarely have I heard such a host of their glorious music.

Two Swallows appeared about the house for the first time. I saw them out over flying about the bird house in the garden at 9 a.m.

First seen
Swallows

There were two male Chockers singing near the barn this forenoon. At length they had a short but desperate fight in the air & on the ground, after which one of them retired.

There were also two male Nuthatches calling not-not-not at once, one in our clump with its note, the other in the distance towards the Ritchie place.

Saw a male Cooper's Hawk plunging over the orchard in long undulations. It called (coo) a few times at each swoop. Parker (the carpenter) saw a flock of 30 or 40 Juncos pass over northward at 4 P.M. while I was in doors.

1906.

April 14

Cloudy with violent S. W. wind. A gloomy day, not really cold but disagreeably chilly.

A Robin, a Song Sparrow, a Tree Sparrow, a Phoebe and a Flicker were singing near the house in the early morning but later in the day I saw and heard almost no birds of any kind. J. C. Melvin who made me a short visit heard a Dove cooing in Birch Field. Hylas and Wood Frogs were in full cry in every direction at evening.

Yesterday the Wood Frogs croaked unceasingly, by dozens if not hundreds, all day long and as late into the night as I was awake. I heard them first on April 9th in the meadow below the orchard where they have been croaking ever since. Two days later they began in the brook meadow across the road and on the 12th I heard them in the Baxter Run. Thus they begin in different pools on different dates.

At sunset last evening twelve Fox Sparrows were feeding on the bank in front of the house. A little later they flew up into the big elm and thence, one after another, at rather wide intervals, to the brushy swamp on the border of the brook that traverses our blueberry pasture. I wondered at the time whether they would pass the night in this cover or push on northward. They must have adopted the latter course for not one was seen or heard about the forenoon to-day. I would give much to know just where they staid on their nocturnal journey. They flew into the swamp as twilight was falling and in a manner which indicated that they were going to tarry there. I am quite sure they did not begin their migration then.

1906

April 16

Clear and warm with light N. W. wind.

Heard a Field Sparrow and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet
yesterday morning and a Caddy this morning

Chowals.

Purdie and I took a long, leisurely drive this
afternoon starting at 2.30 and getting back at 5.30. We
went first to Concord and thence by the Lower road to
Carleton returning by the direct road to the farm. Although
we kept a sharp lookout for birds we saw comparatively
few. Robins were especially scarce but of Bluebirds there
were numbers. The Fox Sparrows and Tree Sparrows were
evidently departed but a few Junco Hill. Crows. We saw
three White-bellied Swallows and two Red wings near a
pond in Carleton. A Pine Warbler was heard singing.
The Lesser Palm Warblers should be here but none have
been noted yet.

Although we heard Wood Thrush in many places their
short singing season is already closing but that of the
Hylas is at its height. Their clear, silvery voices were
ringing for and wide over the land and in forest
large meadows that in places they were making a perfectly
deafening clamor.

The grass is now very green on sunny banks and along
springing runs in the pastures.

1906

April 17

Clear and warm with light, variable winds, changing from
the N. and N. E.

Although last night was especially favorable for migration
no new birds were noted to day.

A Partridge drummed several times in the sun below
the house about 9 a.m. It is the first time I have
heard one this year.

Robins continue scarce. I saw only one or two on the
fence and there was no singing to-day, not even at
dusk.

About ten o'clock this forenoon I heard our Phoebe
calling loudly & excitedly near the house. Looking up I saw a
male Cooper's Hawk circling just above the top of one of the
large elms. I had a good view of him through my glass at a
distance of about 60 yards & made sure of his identity.
He soon began rising and continued to ascend, waving all
the while with scarce a single wing beat, until he was almost
lost to the naked eye although still directly overhead. At
length he ceased circling and started off towards the N. E. in
a perfectly straight course, flapping his wings incessantly and
moving very swiftly. I watched him through my glass
until he faded out of sight in the distance. But he did not
once falter or change his course. I think he must have started
on migration after trying to get something for himself.
While soaring and rising he moved as smoothly & gracefully
as a Butor but in rather smaller circles, turning always from
left to right. ✱

Concord, Mass.

1906.

April 21

I listened attentively to-day to a Coalbin Dove
coming in the Forest Run and jotted down the following
renderings of its notes:

Co-oo, oo, ooo-ooo
Co-oo, ooo, ooo-ooo-ooo
oo, oo, oo, oo-oo.

Coming of
Coalbin
Dove

The second syllable (oo) rises sharply and abruptly
above the pitch of the first and is strongly emphasized.
All the oo notes are similar, very sweet, sad, expressive
and resonant, and given in most carefully measured
tones and intervals.

1906.

April 26

Early morning clear; forenoon cloudy with hard N. wind; afternoon sunny and warm. Ther. fell to 30° last night. The weather has been cold and windy for several days. Our vegetation is well advanced for the season. The fields of English grass are now bright emerald green nearly everywhere.

<u>Yellow Palm Warbler</u>	One seen April 18; very common since then 2, 2 and.
<u>Myrtle</u>	" 1 ♂ April 20; seen almost daily since then.
<u>Solitary Vireo</u>	1 ♂ " 20 & 22.
<u>Black & White Creeper</u>	1 ♂ " 21; none noted since then
<u>Barn Swallow</u>	1 heard " 21 " " " "
<u>Spotted Sandpiper</u>	1 seen " 25 by Pender on Dallen's Hill
<u>Kingfisher</u>	1 " " 25 " Galt's " Flint's Bridge
<u>Herring Thrasher</u>	1 " " 26 " " in Birch Field
<u>White-throated Sparrow</u>	1 " " 26 " " near our barn
<u>Chimney Swift</u>	2 heard " 26 " " at Balle's Hill

Arrivals:

One Phoebe and another bird did not escape from the talons of a Hawk this morning. Just as I stepped out from the side door I heard his sharp chirp, chirp of alarm and then saw him coming from the orchard with the Hawk about fifteen feet behind him. The two birds seemed to merge into one as they reached an elm in the corner but the Phoebe made a sudden turn among the thickly growing branches and crossed the door yard in safety. The Hawk stopped in the elm and alighted there, low down, when I saw that it was a large ♂ Sharp-shin. After resting there about a minute it flew off over the river and then began soaring in circles rising higher and higher until it looked no larger than a swallow when it drifted out of sight towards the south. During its ascent it did not

1906

April 26

(No 2)

once stop its wings. Its circling was performed exactly like that of the Cooper's Hawk seen on the 17th. When flying straight away from the den it alternately flexed and held for a distance of about 100 yards. A Sharp-shin may be easily distinguished from a Cooper's Hawk when flying in this manner for it moves less swiftly and its course is seldom or never perfectly straight. Its flight is more elegant and artistic and gives one less the impression of heaviness. The wings are beaten less often and also less rapidly & continuously. Nevertheless it is by no means easy to distinguish the ♀ Sharp-shin from the ♂ Cooper's when one has had long experience.

This pair of Downy Woodpeckers which have haunted the trees close to the house are preparing to nest in a cleft limb of the old elm at the east end of the shed. I heard one of them at work there about 10 o'clock this morning and the light, warbled sound of its blows went on almost unceasingly from then until sunset. Every few minutes the bird would come to the mouth of the hole and give a quantity of short chirp notes all together once or twice in a row until a score or more had been dropped when it would back down out of sight & resume its tapping. The hole is very small. I do not understand how the birds can have carried it down so far without attracting any notice for I have been constantly employed directly under the trees during the past two weeks. Another curious fact is that I saw the pair copulating on the afternoon of the 17th. While thus engaged the ♀ put back crossways on a twig & one or both birds made a low chattering cry. I did not even see the bird leave the hole to-day & I could not understand its cry.

1906

April 28

Brilliantly clear with strong, cool N.W. wind.

Heard a Brown Thrasher in full song yesterday morning in the Bonnet Run and a Towhee about six o'clock this morning Arrivals in the forsythia bush in front of the farm house (where he spent most of the day).

Although I listened many times through the day beneath the old elm at the east end of the duck I heard nothing of the Downy Woodpeckers until about sunset when one of the birds was tapping persistently within the nest. A few moments later a Downy came from the orchard and entered a rather large ragged hole in a fork of the main stem which contains the nest. The two holes are only a few feet apart. The tapping continued in the nest hole after the other bird entered the larger hole which is doubtless only a resting place.

At then 8 o'clock this afternoon one of the Downy Woodpeckers was at work in the nest. I watched the hole until four o'clock. During this period the tapping was practically incessant excepting when the bird, which proved to be the male, appeared at the entrance and began throwing out chips. This he did at irregular intervals, averaging about five minutes. He brought the chips in his mouth, flew or hid at once, and ejected them by a sharp toss of his head. Once he brought twelve mouthfuls in succession. But as a rule he brought not more than five or six & on one occasion but two. I think he backed down for each successive load but after discharging the last load he invariably came out of the hole and clung beneath it for a moment before entering it again, head foremost, of course. He had to struggle a little to get in for the hole is small. I saw the female Downy repeatedly in an elm near by. She was idling about & looking in the same

1906.

April 29

Clear and warm with light S. W. wind.

Bank Swallows heard near Ball's barn about 9.30 A.M. (On the coming of the 30th I saw 3 birds flying together over the orchard on the farm.)

Arrived

" 30

Cloudy with fresh S. W. wind.

Least Flycatcher. - Heard the chirp with triller in tone near the barn about 9 A.M.

"

May 2

Cloudy with S. W. wind. Thunder heard in distance about 4 P.M. It began raining down after noon and continued on into the night.

Brown Creeper. - Saw one in the elms along our lane about 9 A.M.

Arrivals

Black-throated Green Warbler. - Four males in the big elm in front of the barn & in apple trees in the orchard at 8 A.M.

"

Hastings Warbler. - One singing in elms near the barn at 10 A.M.

"

Chimney Swift. - Flock of 10 or 12 seen in village of Concord by Prater

"

Bittern. - Heard one pumping in distance near the barn when out of sight from this morning.

"

With the Black-throated Green Warblers were two Black and White Creepers, and two Ruby-crowned Kinglets (one singing plainly). There were also four White-throated Sparrows among the hickory bushes near the barn. All these birds were evidently freshly arrived migrants.

There are plenty of Robins now - quite the usual number.

Perch found the nest of a house Sparrow yesterday in Green Field. It contained 2 eggs. The bird was on the nest. Toads & Hylas in full cry every night now.

1906

May 3

Clear with high N.W. wind. Ther. 48° min. 70° max.

Over bird. ♂ & ♀ Heard at evening near Ricks place

Amphisp.

" 4

Clear with strong N.W. wind. Ther. 32° min. 66° max.

Winea Warbler ♂ & ♀ Heard near house in elm about 8 A.M.

Bats. Four in wood shed this morning. They may have come a little earlier for I had not looked for them for the past two days. *(Amphisp.)*

Twelve White-Throated Sparrows spent most of the day on the ground under the dining room windows where we gather hemp seed nearly every morning. They remained here for hours at a time and when not feeding stood or crouched in the short grass keeping perfectly motionless with their heads raised. The white streaks on their crowns evidently made them less, instead of more, conspicuous. More than half of them were in fully mature plumage. They sang a good deal but without much spirit, even in the early morning. When searching for the hemp seeds they often scratched a little after the manner of Fox Sparrows, that is by first jumping forward and then backward. I have seen Junco and Song Sparrows do precisely the same thing here this spring but one of the birds scratches more or as often or as vigorously as does the Fox Sparrow. The Song Sparrows and Junco both walk a good deal with fairly much gait.

1906.
May 4
(Tue 2)

As William Stone and I were strolling in the field across the road from the farm house this afternoon a ♂ Duck Hawk passed us within fifty yards. It was flying swiftly but heavily, about twenty feet above the ground, carrying in its talons a bird that looked as large as a Pigeon & which was probably a Carolina Dove. As it approached the road it tried to rise above the budding trees but failing in this, apparently because of the weight of its burden, it passed directly through them. A narrow coter however, it appeared above them in the direction of the back fence, keeping on to the south-east until lost to sight in the distance beyond the Ricketts place. Stone was perfectly sure that the bird was a Duck Hawk and I had no doubts on this point. He noted the blackish crown, the bluish back and the characteristic tail markings with perfect distinctness. The sharp, powerful wings were vibrated rapidly and incessantly as long as the bird was in sight. It came from the westward where the country is densely wooded for miles. I have never seen a Duck Hawk ~~like~~ such a place before.

Besides the Duck Hawk I saw passing near the house, this afternoon, a pair of Cooper's Hawks, a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Red-shouldered Hawk. One of the Cooper's Hawks was carrying in its talons what looked like a young chicken.

1906

May 5.

Cloudy and big warm with heavy thunder in the distance in the afternoon. Scarcely a breath of wind all day. The air sweet with the fragrance of blossoming cherry and plum trees. Most of the forest trees and shrubs still perfectly leafless but apple trees and lilacs green with young foliage. Vegetation advanced especially through the day. A few Black-brothers in full bloom by evening. Glens slightly green & their forest with spent blossoms.

Yellow Warbler ♂ in apple tree in garden at 8 a.m.

Chestnut-sided Warbler ♂ in Boxwood Run about 9 a.m.

Redstart. ♂ in oak grove behind barn at 8 a.m.

Maryland Yellow-throat. ♂ in berry basket at 6 a.m. & through day.

Red-eyed Vireo ♂ in elm over road at noon. Seen at close range later.

Yellow-throated Vireo ♂ in elm near house at 11 a.m. Sang once feebly.

Scarlet Tanager. ♂ in big elm about 2 P.M.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak ♂ in elm 2 P.M. (2 ♂♂) seen in elms over road later.

Bobolink. - One in field long over house at 11 a.m. Another heard later.

Baltimore Orioles. - One heard at 6 a.m. & through the day was the same bird that has but been for years. Another, that sang for long over barn about noon in elm over road was a stranger bird with an odder song similar song.

Acad. Flycatcher. A silent bird in elm near house at 9 a.m.

One, probably the same, heard in orchard and at Rappin Road later in day.

Whippoorwill. Two singing at evening; one west of house, one west road.

Broad-wing & Hawk. ♂ ad. seen flying over field in front of house at 9 a.m. carrying something in his talons. He alighted

in the big hickory on edge of run. I approached within 30 yds. & watched him tear up & devour his prey. It proved to be a ♀ of ♂ ad. The species was the same as the last. Beneath it I found a ♂ ad. whose feet were partly paralyzed. I think the Hawk had seized a pair of Toads as they were copulating. I saw him fly over the field & alight on the ground.

1906

May 5
(No 2)

The preceding page gives a condensed summary of a bird wave remarkable for the unusual variety of species that appeared here to-day. Most of them were represented by only one or two individuals each so that the total number of individuals was not exceptionally large. The birds, however, were chiefly confined to the immediate neighborhood of the farm house where they flew back and forth from poles to eaves and from eaves to open trees. I visited the woods several times during the day going once to Peter's farm, and twice to the Rockin' place but I found birds scarce everywhere excepting on the hill top where one farm building stood. Here, however, the birds seemed to be changing from time to time & several species that were copious in the afternoon were not present or are I think scarce in the day.

Thus far this spring the different species have nearly all been represented, by only a few individuals, at least on this first appearance of our local summer birds there are about the usual numbers as a rule. Swallows of every kind, however, are exceedingly scarce thus far. Field and Chipping Sparrows, on the other hand, are more numerous than they have been for several years.

1906.

May 6

Cloudy with frequent heavy showers. Dead calm all day. Ther. 50°-64°

Black & Yellow Warbler 18% in apple trees near of house on farm, 9 seen.

Northern Water Thrush 18% West Bedford Lake & river off. Balls Hill, 12 seen.

Wood Thrush 288% in Barter Run 6-10 a.m. & 6 P.M. Both birds feed

there last year as I imagined by their songs.

Cat bird 18% near of Balls Hill, 4 seen.

The farm was alive with birds again to-day but most of those noted were evidently "left overs" from yesterday, the only new ones being the Wood Thrushes and the Black & Yellow Warblers. As was the case yesterday they were nearly all in the elms near the house, in the oaks behind the barn, and in the apple orchards. There were almost none in the Barter Run. I think this may have been due to the fact that vegetation is backward in the woods and that it is much further advanced in the cultivated grounds of the farm.

We spent the wind day down on Balls Hill. There were very few birds in the woods there.

I saw a Chickadee this morning enter a bird house on a pole in the garden at the farm. It went in quickly as if quite at home & remained inside for about a minute. I think it must have a nest there. The box is circular, with a hole near the top [diagram], Tolbush made it of chestnut bark. The pole is about 15 ft. long & is set in open ground but not far from apple trees. I have known a Chickadee bring in the grass - several times of late.

1906.

May 7

Early morning rainy. Most of day cloudy clearing at sunset. Ther 47°-63°.

Blackburnian Warbler 8 in big class in one clumped 5 P.M. Song only one. Arrived.

First of Ruffed Grouse, 8 eggs, North end Puffin Rock woods 4.30 P.M. Meats.

" " Green Finch 3 " Green Field. Found by Purdie May 1. 2 eggs then

Birds were scattered about all over the place and singing freely when I walked to the Rabbit place and to the Berry pasture about 9 A.M. Many of those noted yesterday and day before yesterday were missing to-day and it was evident that fear of any new ones had arrived during the night. In fact I do not think that there has been any arrival of migrants to connect to anything since the 6th although the Wood Thrushes probably did not reach here until yesterday morning. At evening (about 5 P.M.) a small number of Wrens (perhaps a dozen) had collected to feed in the elms and apple trees near our house. Among them I noted the Black-throated. The others were chiefly Yellow-throats, Black-throated, Greens, Pardons, and Woodpeckers.

Purdie and I found the Partridge's nest in the extreme northern end of Puffin Rock woods. It was in very open woods at the base of a large white pine within six feet of Lawrence's weed wood which is trampled occasionally by teams & frequently by dogs & men. The bird flushed ten yards away rising through directly from the nest & flying straight away. The cold Grouse has been drumming for a week or more in well back about 150 yards E. of the nest. We heard him there to-day just before we found the nest.

Purdie showed us his Verper Sparrow's nest in Green Field. I saw the ♀ before the light has 3 eggs. The set absolutely motionless with head raised. When I advanced very close to within a yard of her she ran a few yards & then took wing. The males have nearly finished the first period of singing & I hear them but seldom now.

1906

May 7
(Sat)

I saw the Chickadee leave the bird house on the porch this morning, and fly into one of the apple trees. There must be a nest in the bird house. The male Chickadee was singing in the garden amidst of the forsythias.

Last night about ten o'clock we heard a Fox bark a score or more times, very near the farm house. He was either in the field in front of the house or in the river just beyond ^{the}. His voice was very loud and it fairly rang in the still air. The sound was weird and expressionless. Purdie thought it sounded the outcry of some human being in dire distress. It had a throttled or choking quality despite its strength. As one who was ignorant as to its origin it would have been a truly startling cry. It was undoubtedly the same or nearly so. I wonder why the creature called so long and earnestly. We heard no response. Rain was falling on the river, & the night was very dark.

1906.
May 8

Clear with fresh N. W. wind. Ther. 44° - 62°.

Wilson's Thrush. - I saw a town, silent bird, hopping about on the General.
ground near the middle of a large opening in Birch Field at 4.15 P.M. It was in a grassy place twenty yards or more from the nearest tree. Parker thinks he heard another calling this morning.

There is a large, new nest of a Robin in an apple tree in the orchard behind the house. It is very conspicuous for the tree is practically leafless. I found it to-day.

Nest of Robin

The Phoebe was sitting most of the day on the nest under the eaves of our barn. I think she must have completed her lot.

Phoebe

The Downy Woodpeckers are still at work almost exclusively on their nest in the dead branch of the tree close by our wood shed. The ♀ was working there this afternoon from 2 to 3 o'clock. At the latter hour she hopped out a lot of chips and then came out herself flying to another branch of the tree and working there on the stem for ten or fifteen minutes. I have not seen her since to-day. While she was at work my carpenter was working a steel bander prying on a door which they were putting together directly under the eave. Their noise evidently did not disturb her in the least.

Downy W.

The dead branch is evidently very hard and the nest must be carried down deep by this time for fourteen days have elapsed since I first noticed the birds at work there and the hole had then been carried in & down to for that the bird was out of sight when at work.

Both birds visit & enter of the hole in the live bark at frequent intervals through the day. They are very silent & I rarely hear either of them call. They stopped cleaning before I found this nest.

1906

May 8
(No 2)

White-bellied Nuthatches have frequented the chow and orchard on the Bowerston through the past three breeding seasons but I have never succeeded in finding a nest. This spring I saw the pair together on several occasions early in April but after the middle of the month the ♂ usually appeared alone spending most of the day in the big chow about the house. Indeed I did not see the ♀ between April 13 and May 5. On the latter day, both birds were feeding together in the chow. They were there again this morning when I noticed that the ♀ showed much interest in the numerous holes in the old trees, entering several of them. The ♂ then approached and fed her just after she had emerged from a hole which I thought might contain the nest. About 2 P.M., however, I found the ♀ hard at work removing an old Squirrels' nest from a hole in an oak in the grove behind the barn. She labored ceaselessly bringing out the fine, shredded inner bark that the Red Squirrels use for their nests, in tufts almost as long as her own body and scattering them ^{with} ~~under~~ the leaf ground of the wind. Some of the shreds cling to the tree & then she picked off one by one and tossed outward. After working a long time in this way she began going over the outer bark of the tree near the hole with her beak in the most curious manner. She swung her head from side to side rapidly & vigorously with long, wide sweeps just touching the bark at each stroke. This was kept ^{up} at intervals for ten minutes or more. What she was doing ^{it for} I could not imagine. I could see nothing on the bark even with the aid of my glass. She worked with feverish energy. The ♂, also, seemed strangely excited coming close about her & grasping his wings. He fed her repeatedly with small grains which she instantly swallowed. He entered the hole several times but did nothing there as far as I could see.

Nuthatches
begin work
on nest

1906.

May 8
(No 3)

As I was strolling in Birch Field late this afternoon I
had a good sighting of loons near at hand. It was made
by a Brown Throater who was engaged in getting his supper.
He was an unusually tame bird and I watched him
with great interest, at a distance of only 8 or 10 yards,
without offering to distract his attention for a single moment
from his occupation. He was in a grassy opening over
which a large number of oak leaves had been drifted by
high winds from a neighboring cluster of trees. Scrubbing
his head from side to side and using his bill much as
a housewife uses a pitchfork in spreading hay, he was
tossing the leaves about with remarkable vigor & success.
Sometimes he moved them singly but usually at least
two or three were thrown aside on each stroke of
the closed bill. That it was closed and used merely
as a prod I could see distinctly. Later, however,
I saw him open his bill and pick up a leaf before
attempting to throw it. On no occasion did he
insert the leaves. He simply put his bill under them
& gave them a toss into the air & to one side.

The reward for all this labor was most generous
at times. For on several occasions he found so much
food beneath a leaf that it took him a minute
or more to dispose of it. Indeed he was constantly
picking up & gulping down things that I could not see.
During the entire time I spent watching him he
rambled about in every direction over a space four or
five yards square. His gait was invariably a slow, even, gliding
walk. Not once did he hop. When a crow came loudly
in the distance he stood erect for a brief while watching &
listening. This was the only time he showed any alarm
or hesitancy.

Brown Throater
feeding

1906.

May 10

Clear with strong, cold N. W. wind. Therm 40°-56°

No arrivals noted since the 8th. The weather is too cold and blustering for birds to migrate. Many of those that arrived on the 8th are apparently still lingering about the farm. I saw about a dozen Wilson-Wings this morning in "the Run".

About half past four o'clock this afternoon I crossed Birch Field and passed the spring, keeping on into the mixed oak and pine woods in the direction of the road that leads to Benson's. On the crest of the hill near the big ledge I heard a Broad-winged Hawk utter its shrill hee-dee close at hand. The next instant I saw the bird perched in an oak about thirty feet above the ground sitting erect and still. It was a ♀ in fully adult and very handsome plumage. Whenever I moved it screamed three or four times in succession and crouched it well down to watch me but I actually could not make it fly although I tramped wildly back and forth directly under it. After watching it for ten minutes or more I began looking for the nest & presently found a large fork looking over a mass of sticks & placed about forty feet up in a white pine. As I was looking at it the Hawk flew for the first time but only from its perch to another one in the location where I left it. The ground beneath several of the trees was marked with droppings and Hawk's down was entangled in several of the bushes while I picked up a perfect secondary quill of a Broad-wing near where I found the bird. I shall investigate further to -

1906.
May 11

Clear with high cold N. W. wind. Ther. 38°-58°

Black-throated Blue Warbler 8 seen by Packer at Davis Hill.
Canadian Warbler " " " " " "

Arrivals.

Although the birds just mentioned have not been visited by me before this season I think they must have come before to-day as the weather has been unfavorable of course for migration.

Packer and I visited the supposed Hawk's nest this afternoon about the same time that I was there yesterday. We tramped back & forth through the woods but saw nothing of the Hawk.

As we were returning I left the path to show Packer the telling evidence on the crest of the ridge in the Banner woods. Within ten feet of it I observed a Plover's egg from her nest. She was about 15 feet from me and flew off swift & thought. The nest was among oak scrub at the base of a small oak. It contained 10 eggs which were partly covered with oak leaves.

We visited the artificial pond in the Boxy Pasture before going to the house. The surrounding was the land was marked in many places with deep impressions of a deer's hoofs. The tracks were perfectly fresh & must have been made this afternoon. I should say that the animal was a small doe.

1906.

May 12

Partly cloudy and very hazy with strong, warm S.W. wind. Ther. 39°-69°.

A few northern migrants were seen to-day, but no new birds were noted. In a small flock of Yellow-rumps that we found in a clump of birches on the edge of Horne's meadow was a Red-tail Warbler. It appeared suddenly in a leafless bush within three or four yards of me & wagged its tail. The motion I saw it I thought that it looked like the holmaneri for the under parts showed little yellow down on the throat. Before I could get my glass fairly on it it flew & was lost from sight. It was probably a double of hypochrysa. At least that is the safest conclusion.

A Red-tail
Warbler that
looked like
holmaneri

We saw both the Hood-winged Hawks to-day flying directly towards the nest over the Run, the ♀ about nine o'clock this morning, the ♂ about half an hour later.

Pair of
Broad-winged
Hawks

The ♂ bore in his talons a Batrachium of some kind & was doubt a large Toad, with its legs dangling & waving to & fro conspicuously. The Hawks' eyes were drooped during flight to nearly their full length so that the Toad was nearly a foot behind the bird's breast. These Hawks were at last seen in the woods, where I found them at the 10th third line of fence invariably across the Run in the same place & the same direction. Indeed they go straight for the nest, like homing bees.

Started seven Doves in a sandy field near Horne's meadow. Two rose together in one place & five in another. Gilbert flushed a Dove from her nest at Horne's field to-day.

Flock of
Doves.

1906

May 12

(No 2)

Gilbert spent the afternoon on Ball's Hill. Returning by way of Davis Hill he noted many Deer tracks in the sandy path that leads from the Swamp on the base of Ball's Hill to Davis Hill. He had Larry with him on a leash. On reaching Birch Field he crossed the dog & saw no more of him. We have since learned that Larry started a Deer soon afterwards and chased it across Jun Field in full view of most of the Benson family who were out with them. Nellie Benson who is a good observer and truthful says that although the Deer seemed to be exciting itself to the utmost Larry (a little Irish Terrier but for its small size a remarkably swift runner) gained on it perceptibly. As she expressed it the Deer seemed to spend much of its energy in making high bounds while Larry kept close to the ground and forged ahead. I have been told by hunters in Maine that almost any dog can catch a Deer within a mile on a level open surface look as that of a frozen lake.

1966

May 14

Brilliantly clear with light E. wind: Ther. 52°-68°. Yesterday was very warm in the forenoon the thermometer being in 83°. No animals were noted except a Cuckoo but there was such a tremendous gale of wind blowing that it was difficult to see or hear anything. The night was warm with a light, gentle rain but extremely dark. I looked for a big flight of migrants but apparently only a few came. There were, however, a good many House Wrenblers that had evidently come during the night. Many of our apple trees were in full bloom this morning & the House Wrenblers were feeding away the blossoms.

Black-billed Cuckoo. Heard the coo-coo call last night about 9 o'clock, evidently given by a bird that was flying over the garden. To-day a bird was cooing (coo-coo) in the garden.

Golden-winged Warbler. Saw a ♂ in our big elm at 6 P.M.

Wilson's Black-cap. - Perched on one in our own lawn.

Herringbird. - Heard one in garden at 8 a.m. I believe saw one on a bush.

Animals

A pair of Towhees spent most of the day in the little thicket between our house and barn. The ♂ gave this hoarse song but two of its calls were more peculiar. One resembled the note of the Cowbird the other was peculiarly indistinguishable from the chirp of the Maryland Yellowthroat. I heard as well as heard the bird within 60 ft. Both ♂ & ♀ frequently uttered the prolonged ze-e-e-e-e which sounds a little like the song of a Golden-winged Warbler heard on a distant tree.

Heard a House Wrenbler utter the flight song over about 7 P.M. Notes as thus: Trip-Trip-Trip-tue-ti-Tue-tue-tue-ti-ti-ti-ti. The first five notes were additional ones, all the others being those of the universal song. I did not see the bird.

1906

May 15

Clear with strong W. wind. A white frost at daybreak but
middle of day warm. Ther. 38° - 72°

Tennessee Warbler. A ♂ in elms oaks and blossoming apple trees (elm)
near the house and at the foot of the lane. He sang freely from
6 to 8 a.m. and occasionally through the entire forenoon. Although
restless he was very tame and reportedly I got within a few
yards of him but he seldom moved for more than a
few minutes in the same tree. In movements and general
behavior he closely resembled a Nashville Warbler. He fed chiefly
at the ends of the branches picking among the terminal buds
and unfolding leaves with his sharp bill, often hanging head
downward and working upward like a Titmouse. He was
alone most of the time but occasionally with one or two war-
blers. His song was less shrill and more insistent than
usual. It might, indeed, have been mistaken for a Nashville
Warbler's but for the measured pitchee-pitchee-pitchee pitchee
notes which formed the prelude and which are so
characteristic of the Tennessee Warbler.

Besides the Tennessee Warbler I noted nothing new
and but few birds which are obviously north-bound
migrants.

1906.
May 16

Brilliantly clear and oppressively warm with scarce a breath of wind. As most of the deciduous trees are still leafless there was little shade to be found from the sun's intense rays. Ther. 50°-87°.

Solitary Sandpiper. Saw one on the river bank on Fair's Bridge Revere.

Apparently only a few migrants come last night. I heard a Black & Yellow and two Black-throated Blue Warblers singing in the Ravine Run this forenoon & then I think have arrived from yesterday. House Wrenches still haunt the copper trees which were in nearly full bloom to-day.

Returning from a drive to Concord this morning I saw a great swarm of House Wrenches flying about a new sand bank which Peterson has just opened on the west side of Atkins' field. With the aid of my glass I counted over twenty fresh holes in this bank. The colony promises to be as large as those which existed on Bedford Street, Concord several years ago.

1906.

May 17

Clear with light, variable winds chiefly from E. & S. W. Air. 49°-77°.

Black-bell Wren ♂ & ♀ 6-8 a.m. in oaks near house.

Swainson's Thrush 1 calling about 2 P.M. in grass at rear of barn.

Chimney

Indigo Bird. ♂ ad. silent, in top of large oak near house, 9 a.m.

Wood Pewee. ♂ & ♀ in large tree near house about noon.

Visited the Banner Run and Pulpit Rock woods this morning. There were only a few migrants in either place. Most of the birds noted were in the trees were the hoppers especially the coffee trees which were in fullest bloom and deeply glowing. In them, feeding among the snowy blossoms were a number of Wrens including House, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, and a ♂ Wilson's Black-cap.

I have usually associated the coming of Cuckoos with mid-June and have rarely heard it at all in May or early June but for the first four days Black-bellied Cuckoos have been coming about the house on all hours while I have not as yet heard them give the long succession of notes at all.

Swallows have appeared in considerable numbers within the last four days. A pair of Barn Swallows are repairing the nest over the hay shed last year in the barn attached to the barnyard, and a pair of White-bellies have again taken possession of the big one the house here in which they are building a new nest. I have supposed that they raised a brood there last year but on opening the big this spring I found four unincubated young nearly fully grown & well feathered. Where they had them I do not know.

1906.

May 18

Clear, calm, oppressively hot. Ther 53-88°.

The warm sun brought a big bird wave. I noted for the first time only three species, however. These were.

Bay-breasted Warbler - 688. ^{one} in elms near house, one in white pines in the Run, four in white & pitch pines in Puffin Rock woods.

Arrears.

Lincoln's Finch. Started a bird from a ground juniper among the gray birches east of the carpenter. It was silent and rather tame. I had a good view of it at about ten yards distance. It flew up into a wild apple tree where it sat motionless with head erect watching me.

The bulk of the Warbler flight that arrived last night seems to have consisted of Black-throats, Bay-breasts and Magnolia Warblers. Of the first named I noted 488 & 1 ♀ of the last 2088 and 1 ♀. The Magnolias were scattered about about everywhere. There were three or four in our blossoming apple trees, or among them in the Run, while the remaining birds were noted chiefly in Puffin Rock woods. I heard two Black-throated Blue Warblers, one in the Run, the other near Puffin Rock. The House Wren is still here in numbers, especially in the blossoming apple trees. I heard three Black-throats to-day.

Birds of every kind sang through the entire forenoon & well into the afternoon despite the intense heat. But at sunset all for nearly an hour before it. There was almost no singing. Bobolinks, Grosbeaks, Orioles, Tanagers & Wood Thrushes sang like mad nearly all day. I have rarely heard anything like it here.

1906

May 18
(No 2)

There are at least two and I think three more
Hooded Mergansers settled in our Run. Two were singing this
morning within thirty yards of each other near the
conveyer. As I passed on I heard what I took to be a
third at the foot of the Run but one of the birds heard
before we had been near as I passed.

A Pine Warbler that has been frequenting the cluster
of white pines in the Run for the past month has
two distinct songs. One of them is the normal song
of the species but if anything fuller, louder and
more melodious than is usual. The other song is a
short, flat, dry, crowding trill positively indistinguishable
by my ears from that of a Junco & a poor singing
Junco in fact. I heard the bird change from one
song to the other several times this morning.

Two male Bobolinks spent the whole of yesterday
and to-day in the meadow across the road from the
farm house. They kept together the whole time feeding
within a yard or two of each other in the tops of
loopy elms & apple trees and one following the other
when it took wing. Their singing was louder, more
continuous and more rollicking than any Bobolink
music I have heard for years. Not once did they
sing together but one would usually begin & soon
as the other ceased. Thus they kept up an almost
continuous flood of music. I fastened my ears on
it for nearly half an hour. They kept it up nearly
all day. I saw no female. The males acted as
if they were close friends rather than rivals.

1906

May 18
(No 3)

Yesterday morning I saw three King Birds together near the little pond in our Berry pasture. They were behaving very oddly. Alighting on some leafy horizontal branch facing one another and only a few feet apart they would crouch and give their wings and bow their heads back at the same time without their hands visible or noticeably. Frequently one would fly to another tree & its two companions would immediately follow when the being & sleeping would be continued. This was kept up at intervals for ten or fifteen minutes. There were two birds in the same place late this afternoon going through precisely the same performance. It looked like courtship but I cannot understand how two males could be courting the same female without fighting. However the third bird behaved exactly like the other two yesterday & the two to-day acted just alike.

The Towhees have nearly or quite ceased twittering but the Hylos keep every night as noisy and shrill as when they were. Visiting our little pond last evening I was surprised to find that now, Hylos were preening on dry land well back in the bushes.

The Towhees took to the water to-night for the first time and their course, coming from one pond, was almost straight through the ditch, owing to fear into the region. (I assumed that they were in the water because their notes came from the pond but on the next evening (May 19) I visited the place & found that all three on this occasion were in the bushes near the pond & not actually in the water.)

1906.

May 19

Clear and oppressively warm with strong S. W. wind.
Ther. 66° - 86°.

The past two days have brought wonderful changes in the vegetation. The apple trees have nearly finished blooming and their white petals have been whirling in clouds through the air all day before the strong wind, like flowers of hoar frost. The trees are leafing out fast and the woods now show masses of green foliage especially where there are birches, maples and poplars.

There were a number of north-bound migrants on the farm this morning. But most of was all of them were probably left over from the swarms that were here yesterday.

In the oak grove at the rear of the barn I heard singing at 8 o'clock this morning. Bay Breasted Warbler, one (I saw a ♀ in the same tree at the same time), Black-poll Warbler, one; Black-burnian Warbler, one; Black-throated Green Warbler, one. In the neighboring apple orchard, feeding among the blossoms, I saw a ♂ Black & Yellow Warbler, three female Yellow-rumps and a ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler. A Canada Flycatcher was singing in the bushes near the barn.

There were only a few migrants in the Run and in Purple Rock woods west of them being Black-burnians & Black & Yellow Warblers. I noted nothing new to my list.

Two Black & Yellow Warblers heard this morning sang exactly the same although they were widely separated.

I noted this song as ree-ter-ree-ree-te.

1906.

May 20

A beautiful day, brilliantly clear with strong, bracing N.W. wind. Ther. 50-76°

Right hawk. Heard one peeping in the oaks behind our barn about 9 a.m.; I heard one there last year on May 21st

usual.

There were but few. warblers about today. In the early morning I heard near the house only one common house wren & a few birds. During a walk to Boole's Hill (10-12 a.m.) I heard two Black and Yellow Warblers & a Black-burnian. At the east end of Boole's Hill was two, 8 Black & Yellow Warblers, a pair of Canadian Warblers, a ♀ Wilson's Black-cap & a ♀ Redstart. There was a Great Horned Owl near the cabin.

The Blue Jay was sitting on her five eggs in the pine at the wood shed. Strong to day a Robin was sitting on the last year's nest of two Jays' which is in an oak within a few yards of the log cabin & not twenty yards from the wood shed. The old nest looks dilapidated and shows no signs from below of having been made over or added to by the Robin but I started that bird from it then or five times & she called incessantly as long as I remained near it so I think she must have eggs.

1906.
May 21

Brilliantly clear with cool E. wind. Ther. 36°-64°

Yellows-bellied Andless. Heard full song in air about 11 A.M. Answered.

The only north-bound migrants noted to-day were a ♂ House Wren x, a ♂ Yellow Warbler x, 3 ♂♂ Black & Yellow Warblers x, a ♂ Black-poll x, 2 ♂♂ Black-throated Green Warblers x, and 4 White-throated Sparrows. Evidently the migration is nearing its end.

Purdie and I went to Bannock's pine woods by the river this forenoon. As we were passing the northwestern corner of Green Field we heard, near at hand, the unmistakable loud grating call of a Sharp-shinned Hawk, a dry hee-hee hee-hee hee. It recalls the grating note of Cooper's Hawk but is feebler and less loud. We did not see the bird but we found under a pine the feathers of a ♂ Goldfinch which it had probably killed & in another tree of the same kind, not far off, a fresh looking hawk's nest made of rotten pine boughs.

Purdie spent most of the afternoon in Pulpit Rock woods looking for the nest of the Broad-winged Hawk. He saw both birds. The ♀ behaved precisely as when I watched her on May 10. Purdie says that he tried in vain to make her leave her perch which was in a small oak within a few rods of where I saw her on May 10. She screamed at him incessantly but would not fly. There was on a nest in these woods but Purdie is not sure that he found it although he thinks he has.

1906.

May 22

Brilliantly clear with cool W. wind. Ther. 38° - 72°.

No other band migrants noted unless in that category I may include a night hawk which spent the earlier day on a dead branch of one of the apple trees in our orchard. I visited it several times & always found it in exactly the same place and attitude with its eyes nearly if not quite closed. Its grayish mottled plumage admirably matched the lichen covered branch.

Purdie, Gilbert & I spent most of the forenoon in the woods south of Purple Rock searching for the nest of the Broad-wing. Gilbert climbed to the nests (four of them being the one that Purdie thought the bird deserted from yesterday) but all proved to be deserted old squaw's nests. The ♀ Broad wing appeared twice, once perching rather near us & screaming a few times.

I fear the Great Horned Owls have deserted this neighborhood. I have not heard them this spring nor could I find any signs of their presence during my visit yesterday to their long occupied strangulated Lonicera vines by the river. There thus belong to extinct Lonicera what used not have them and one old John Lonicera who owns most of the adjoining woodland has been cutting all winter down to them by fires. Perhaps the presence of his wood choppers there in late winter may have disturbed the Owls & frightened them away.

1906

May 23

Clear, calm, warm. Ther. (max) 82°

A Canadian Warbler was singing in bushes near our barn this morning but I noted no other north-bound migrants although I was in the woods for several hours and walked to Hobb's Hill via Davis Hill and back via Holders' Hill, thus covering a fair amount of ground.

Migration
about over.

Heard two Cooted Flycatchers calling on Dullin's Hill this afternoon. As I had left two birds at the farm in the morning and as I found one there on my return I think the one heard at Dullin's Hill must be a different pair.

Yellow Warblers are unusually numerous here this spring. I heard no less than three notes singing on the farm this morning, two in the Bee pasture and the third in the apple trees behind the house. There was one noted near Hobb's Hill.

Several Barn Swallows were collecting mud on the shore of our little pond this morning. They came to it in pairs & alighted at the water's edge. The ♀ at once began scooping up the mud in long globules which she held for a moment in her bill & then apparently swallowed. The ♂ made a great show of looking for mud but only once did I see him take up any. This time he followed his mate with a lump in his bill.

1906.

May 24

Clear and warm with light S.W. wind.

A Black-bellied Plover singing near the house this morning was the only north land migrant noted to-day.

On the 15th a pair of White-bellied Swallows began building in a box on a short pole attached to the gutter end of our hen house. I have watched them repeatedly since but was not to-day, when I saw the ♂ give his mate any assistance although he usually accompanied her on her flights to and from a neighboring field where she was getting dry grass blades. This evening, however, he came to the box bearing a large feather which he at once took in and left in the nest. The ♀ followed him on this occasion but she brought nothing with her nor did she enter the box.

1906.
May 26

Clear and warm with strong S. W. wind. Ther. 50°-77°

The only northern migrant noted to-day was a
Black-bellied ~~Warbler~~ singing near the house this morning.

Migration.

Hylas and Jim Woods have been in full cry coast
along and this in the pond across the road. Mingling
with their voices I have heard both even in a yelping
ow-ow-ow-ow-ow-ow not unlike that of a housecat. This
cry is new to me. It is less loud than a dog's but
yet by us means a fierce or ill-defined sound. It
is repeated at long and irregular intervals. The notes
are given rapidly and their yelping quality is prominent.
I am very sure that they come from the pond
but I cannot even guess what other animals can be.
I have this fore heard them only after dark. They
are certainly unlike the strange Rail-like voice that
I heard in this meadow last year and that I
think must be the call of the common Woodcock. I have
heard it at Dublin and have dubbed "the glass"

Another
mysterious
voice

1906.

May 28

A heavy north-easterly rain storm began yesterday afternoon and has continued through to-day without the slightest signs of abating. The rainfall has been heavy and continuous and the brooks are already swollen as they have not been before this year. When I visited Rook's Hill this afternoon I found that the river was rising rapidly. It was probably because the meadows and down on the Red-wings again. Their nests were destroyed in this way in 1903 and 1904 but last year the few birds that frequented these meadows were not disturbed by the water. They were very scarce nearly all year in April but of late I have seen them in Great Meadows in nearly their normal numbers.

With few exceptions the finest singers among our local birds are at their best, musically, for only a very short period. Seldom, indeed, exceeding a week and sometimes not more than three or four days. This is true of the Robin, Hood Thrush, Bobolink, Catbird, Thrasher, Grosbeak, Bobolink and Vesper and Field Sparrows. Many of the second class performers, such as the Song Sparrow, Towhee, Tanager and all the others, sing equally well for several weeks in succession. Already the best of the spring singing is over. The Bobolinks have been wholly silent for weeks, the Thrashers, Grosbeaks, Bobolinks, Robin Sparrows and Field Sparrows have nearly ceased the rapturous singing of a week or two ago. The Catbirds are still in fairly good song. The Hood Thrush have become almost wholly silent. Strange to say I have heard only one Vesper sing this spring although the birds are as numerous here as usual and I am constantly in or near their haunts.

Briefness
of the singing
season.

1906.

June 1

Clear and warm with south-west wind.

I have not heard a Wood Thrush since May 25th until to-night when one of the birds in the "Run" sang in a half-hunted way for a few minutes as twilight was falling. It is understood I believe for the Wood Thrush to cease singing so early in the season.

Strange to say I have heard only one Veery sing this spring. Yet the birds are as common here as usual and I hear them calling in the Run near the front house nearly every morning & evening.

A Catbird that is apparently nesting in the big forget-me-not bush in front of the house has been singing at all hours and most delightfully for nearly two weeks. He mimics the songs of the Wood Thrush, the Robins & the Great Flycatcher & this morning early he gave forth the bob-white & the "Heater call" of the Lizard. His imitations are all good and that of the Wood Thrush has reportedly deceived me for the moment.

Early this afternoon Gilbert called my attention to a rather large Milk Eater in an apple tree in the garden. About a foot of the terminal end of the snake was bared around a smooth thick part of the trunk of the tree while the remainder of the body was inside the trunk. The head showing out one small opening & the coils part coming out through another ~~fig. 27~~ as I looked the head was drawn back out of sight.

1906

June 1
(No 2)

while the tail part swarmed motionless. Immediately after this a Deer Mouse ran out of the hole where the Snake's head had been and clambered into the very top of the tree. Although of nearly full size it looked like a young animal & it was evidently very much frightened & somewhat confused perhaps by the strong sunlight. Scarcely had it disappeared among the foliage than the Snake again thrust his head on the opening. He held another mouse exactly resembling the first in his mouth and had already swallowed its head & most of the body. Before I left the place our boat, the land and hind feet had disappeared down the Snake's throat. The holes just mentioned were about a foot apart in the sides of a nearly horizontal section of the trunk. Between them was much more than large enough to admit my forefinger. One would think a mouse safe in such a retreat but the Snake can go anywhere, apparently. The other tree was not an old, decayed one but a very vigorous & nearly sound tree.

The yelping call like that of a young hound is coming from the weavers across the wood as I write these lines. I have heard it a dozen times or more during the past hour (8-9 P.M.) mingling with the voices of Golden Plovers & the Hawks. It must be the note of some Batrachian I think.

1906.

June 2

Clear and warm with light S. W. wind.

Heard a Quail near my Stone Boat house opposite Ball's Hill this afternoon. About the same time Towhee who was at the farm sang a B on the wood by the well in front of the old house. Both birds gave the "scatter cock" only.

At Ball's Hill about 1.30 P. M. I found in the coat path near the big oak a decapitated Rabbit. Its head had been severed from the neck as clearly as if cut off by an axe & no trace of it could be found. The deed must have been committed to-day & I think the Rabbit had not been dead for more than half an hour for its body was still warm and the blood on the severed neck had not dried. I think I found a Rabbit last year that had been killed in the same way & that at the time I repeated the deed to a fox. The Rabbit found to-day was a pregnant female with young almost ready for birth.

I spent some time this evening watching the pair of Crested Flycatchers that are frequenting our orchard again for the tenth or eleventh year at least. They have bred in at least three different trees during this period. This evening the female flew to the hole in which young were hatched two years ago & feeding near it remained for some time for many minutes. At length I looked away for an instant during which the bird disappeared, I went into the hole.

Both sexes appear to use the same calls & to be equally noisy. I am not sure however, that the ♀ gives the long rolling call. The Crested Flycatcher has a habit of rolling the head slowly almost exactly like a bird. It also hops from twig to twig without using its wings much more than the most of species.

1906

June 10

A remarkably bold and enterprising Red Squirrel has been hanging about the farm house for several days. On one occasion I saw him trying to get into the pigeon loft. On another Gilbert surprised him on a branch of the apple tree that shades the back door within a yard of a Red-eye's nest. The Red-eyes were making a great outcry but when the Squirrel saw Gilbert he ran up the tree & jumped on to the roof of the house. This happened yesterday. Again this afternoon Gilbert heard the Vireos crying anxiously. Looking out through the screen door he saw the Squirrel on the branch within a few inches of the nest eating something. Presently he dropped a portion of the shell of one of the vireo's eggs. He then wiped his face with his fore paws & wiped the latter on the branch. The next minute he bent forward until his head & fore shoulders disappeared in the nest & almost immediately reappeared on the branch with another egg in his mouth. The Vireos assailed him frontally & one of them struck him with her bill when he was in the nest. Probably because of their attacks he abandoned immediately took the second egg off with him running up the main trunk of the tree until lost to sight in the foliage of its crown. This is the first time I have ever known a Red Squirrel to molest a bird nest on this farm. I have suspected for several weeks that this Red-bellied Squirrel was a nest robber because of his activities. It is surprising that he did not raid the Phoebe's nest under the eaves of the barn for I have repeatedly seen him on the roof but the bird saved her young in safety.

Red Squirrel

robs a

Vireo's nest

& eats the

egg.

Gleedale, Berkshire Co. Mass

1906

July 3

Rough-winged
Swallows

After spending a week with the Pennells at Gleedale I returned to Cambridge to-day. About 10.15 a.m. as I was waiting for my train at the railroad station in Gleedale I saw a pair of Rough-winged Swallows flying back and forth over the Housatonic River. Skimming just above the surface of the rapidly flowing water they passed and repeated the station many times, giving me a good opportunity to make out their characteristic color and markings. Once they alighted on a large flat topped rock at the water's edge where they stood about 60 feet, quite near reminding me of Semipalmated Plover feeding on a beach. I have never seen any other Swallows move so quickly. After drinking at a little pool of rain water which had collected in a hollow in the ledge they took wing again and resumed their regular, coursing flight. They frequently passed under the bridge by which the road from the station crosses the river to the village and twice they turned sharply upward and disappeared for a moment among its supporting supports which are barely feet or more above the water. Suspecting that they might have young there I went out on the bridge but I could see nothing under it. On a telephone wire stretched across the river a little above the bridge I found, however, three young Rough-wings, fully grown and feathered, clamoring loudly for food which the old birds brought to them every minute or two. I had a fine view of these young birds for they were perched in the full sunlight within ten or twelve yards of me. Probably there were one or two others of the brood under the bridge but of that I could not make sure. Two of these

Glendale, Berkeley Co., Mass.

1906.

July 3
(No. 2)

on the river were facing me and showed the rich reddish brown or fulvous mottlings of the throat and upper part of the breast, which are so characteristic of the young of S. serripennis, with perfect distinctness. The only sound they made was a guttural glug not unlike that of the adult Barn Swallows. Their plumage was wholly free from down and their wings and tails appeared to be of full length. Although from the fact I had entertained no doubts as to the identity of the two old birds I was glad of the opportunity which presently occurred to directly compare them with a number of adult Barn Swallows which were flying about over a shaded stretch of river just above the bridge. As the Rough-wing mingled with them for a moment the difference in size, color and mottlings between the two species was very noticeable. The Rough-wing looked a third larger and very much browner than the Barn Swallow while they showed us trace of the dark frontal collar to compare with the latter species. Their flight was also different being slower, heavier and more direct. I had them under observation for upwards of ten minutes and at times they passed me within a few yards. As I have been long familiar with the appearance of the species in life there can be no question as to the correctness of my identification of these particular birds: the young must have been out of the nest for a week or more. None of the Barn Swallows appeared to have young in the immediate neighborhood. I did not hear the adult Rough-wings utter any sound.

Concord, Mass.

1906.

July 5

Cloudy most of forenoon. Afternoon sunny. Rather cool with S. & E. wind.
Night cloudy, calm & rather warm.

I was in the woods nearly all day, at Ross' Hill in the forenoon, between there and the farm in the afternoon. Saw and heard a surprising number of small birds. They were generally distorted and warbled in flocks. Most of them were singing freely and very few were accompanied by young.

I was surprised to hear so much good singing so late in the season. A Grosbeak sang through the entire forenoon in the woods across the river from the cabin, and a Dove was cooing there at intervals. About 8 a. m. a Nuthatch gave the full song with force upon once. Robins, Red-eyes, Oven birds, Song Sparrows, Pine Siskins, Black-throated Green Warblers & Swamp Sparrows were singing all day long. At evening there was a fine concert of Veeries in Ross' Hill & Davis Swamp. I have not heard these birds sing so freely before this year. Though they & early June they were almost wholly silent everywhere and at all hours. A Quail whistled all the forenoon on the West Marlboro' side of the river and about eight o'clock this evening a Whippoorwill sang there for several minutes. Later in the night I wanted to hear him very near the cabin on Ross' Hill. I heard no Killdeer but Fitch told me that they have been pumping freely up to within the last two or three days.

About ten o'clock in night I heard coming from the semi-flooded marsh across the river a song or cry not unlike the "Killdeer" yet differing in several respects. I noted it thus: kic-kic-guar-guar (or keer-guar-er-er). Sometimes the kic-kic notes were omitted. The tone of most of the notes was closely similar to that of the Killdeer but the guar (or guar-er) was different & very harsh & shrill. This call was given only at rather long & irregular intervals varying from once to three minutes. The creature called in all was more than eight or ten times.

Still another
ornithological?
nothing

Concord, Mass.

1906

July 14

Clear with light, cool E. wind.

On reaching Concord this afternoon I learned from Torbush that the Red wings had established a large roost in the meadows near Beacon Dam Rapids. He first noted them assembling here on July 9th when he estimated the number of birds at about 200.

a big roost
of Red-wings
at Beacon Dam
Rapids.

I visited the roost this evening shortly after sunset in my canoe. Blackbirds, coming from the eastward in small flocks kept coming on as I paddled up the reach opposite Boile's Hill. When I got to the foot of the Rapids I saw them settling among the willow trees, sweet flags and blue-joint (Caucay grass) that covers the little island and the low-lying strip of marsh behind it on the Boile's meadow. There was a good deal of calling (*chā-chā*) on the part of the young and of singing on that of the adult males but the total amount of noise did not indicate a very large assemblage of birds. Indeed I was quite unprepared for the clouds of them that rose with a sound of wings like that of a gale of wind blowing through pine trees when I rapped the sides of the canoe lightly with the paddle. They went off in three successive flocks each of which I feel sure contained more than 100 birds and flying low across the river settled again in the reeds above the big lagoon. For some time after this small flocks were continuously coming, singly from the eastwards. It was an easy matter to count the number of them with approximate accuracy and I noted 250 in the course of two and a half minutes. Most of them were directly to the lagoon which I suppose is the their usual landing place. Assuming that there were

Concord, Mass.

1906.

July 14

(No 2)

330 birds in the body which I flushed at first. These must have been at least 600 in all. There were certainly no Great Black Birds among them but I think I saw a few bunches of Cow birds. It is always difficult to distinguish them from Red-wings during these wing flights except by their notes and on this occasion I heard no notes excepting those of Red wings. The winging birds passed, as a rule, at a height of only thirty or forty feet, flying in the usual way, undulating somewhat and making only a light beating sound with their wings, as they passed over the woods. But very now and then one or more which had approached the forest at an elevation of one or two hundred feet shot down to it on a deep wailing note with a loud beating noise something like that of a humming bird.

Mingling on times with the winging Housebirds, but often crossing their line of flight, a flock of thirty or forty Barn Swallows kept circling about over the marshes and river going as far to the eastward as the head below Balls Hill and nearly to the Mill in the other direction. When they rested I know not for they were still on wing when I reached the cabin on my return although I was there too late to see them except against the faint glow of light in the western sky. 7 o'clock tells me they have been returning to the river marshes every evening since the 9th when he thinks there were at least 150 birds in the flock.

I heard two Virginia Rails giving the big notes at intervals. Swamp Sparrows were singing in very numbers all night long. Toward the house higher than frequently of late. Neither he nor I have seen or heard of any kind this year.

Barn Swallows

flying to

river.

Concord, Mass.

1906

July 15

Clear, calm oppressively warm. Light south wind at evening.

Spent the forenoon in the Birds Hill region. In P.M. walked to the farm by way of Benson's taking out evening bin Smith Field, Parsons' fields & Davis Hill.

Farbrook tells me that he has seen an heron Partridge & Gyron nearly every day the past week on the very edge of the river along the foot of Balds Hill. I started them three times to day twice in the forenoon and once about 7 P.M. On all three occasions they rose from the bushes at the water's edge not far from Brook gate.

As I was crossing the Bauer's meadow this morning I heard two Red shouldered Hawks descending and ascending on the westernmost knoll of the Stockman Canal. Following up the sound I started about 100 yds. a young or immature bird which flew off screaming. At the same moment I saw a Gray Squirrel moving about under a spruce within 20 feet of the bush which the Hawk had just left. This bush, a dead & leaning tree, was literally covered with hawks down to the ground beneath it was white with chocking excrement & littered with pellets. About thirty yards off was an almost continuous ring of choke marks circling an oak about 40 ft. in height & 10 or 12 inches in girth at the base. In a fork of this oak perhaps 15 ft. above the ground was a nest smaller than a crow's (indeed smaller larger than a Green Heron's) but made chiefly of sticks & collected after the usual pattern of a Hawk's nest. I have never before seen anything like so much excrement under a birds nest of any kind.

1906

July 15
(Wed)

As I was strolling through the pine barrens
near the Hill just after dinner I heard a Chickadee making
the low, feeble zee-c-c-c peculiar to this season. The bird,
an adult in plumage, was feeding heavily, frequently
approached and I stopped to watch it. It approached by
short flights and hops until it was within a few feet
less than two feet of my face. Here balancing itself on
the slender, drooping spray ~~and~~ remained for a moment or
more uttering its peculiar cry incessantly. At length I
advanced very slowly and my finger was
within an inch of the bird's head when it suddenly
took alarm & dashed off through the woods.

At evening as I was returning to the Hill through
Pine Park I heard Blue Jays screaming near at hand.
On going to the spot I found that there were no less
a dozen of them assembled among the branches of a
large pine where they were evidently watching for
passing insects. Suddenly one of them was seized and
borne off through the tree tops by I know not what bird
probably a Hawk. The unfortunate bird gave one loud
jag scream and then a long succession of agonized cries
giving gradually farther & farther. The massacre, whatever
he was, was closely followed by another flock of jays,
whose combined clamor was almost deafening. The second
stopped in the wooded swamp behind the wood shed.
After some five minutes the jays began returning, one by
a time. Suddenly they all began screaming again &
assembling in a large oak. In its top I soon discovered
a Crow sitting, from beneath to which both, attracted by the
jays who looked at him for a while & looked down at him
until I had a good view of him. One from the last calling
in utterance of the Crow. As I was thinking he had had nothing
in its with the exception of one jay.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.
July 16

Although I have been absent from Cambridge during most of the Spring and early Summer I have abundant evidence to show that no Robins roosted on our place during April, May or June. On several occasions in June I saw our breeding birds (at least the old males) fly off towards the westward just before dark. Mrs. Brewster who was here during the greater part of June assures me that no Robins came to the lilacs at evening during that month nor during July 1st and 2nd. As she took the very evening on the back piazza her testimony to this effect is conclusive.

By a curious coincidence the birds returned to the old roost the first evening after my return - that of July 3rd where I saw about 15 Robins enter the lilacs about 8 P.M. The next evening they came in much larger numbers and I watched them until they had become settled on their perches and quite silent. On this occasion I counted 52 evening birds. After this they came every evening for a while but in smaller and very variable numbers. I ~~consider~~ ^{considered} we were coming but noted "about" 20 birds on the 9th and about 30 on the 13th. These were the largest numbers.

On several evenings less than a dozen came but there was always at least a few up to and with the big wing of the 13th. On that evening on both trees a downy paper to two on the back piazza which was brilliantly lighted. The noise, bright & light seemed to disturb the birds a good deal and once when it was nearly dark they all started off in a body but most of them quickly returned & I think they all spent the night in the lilacs. We have not seen any of them since then but the place has not been closely watched. It is possible that a few birds come to this roost during

The Robins
roost in
our garden
bushes up
& fly off to
the lilacs.

1906.

July 16
(Wed.)

the following two evenings. To-night not one alighted in the blos but about 7.30 I saw several birds fly over the house from the garden. Soon after this Mrs. Brewster, who was in one of the front chambers, called to me that the Robins were ascending in our lindens. I at once went into my study & closing the west line windows saw twenty or more birds come into this tree, chiefly into those on the western side of the front wall. Judging by the agitation of the foliage & by the calling of the birds they would have been at least thirty or forty Robins assembled when the flight came to an end. I watched the tree until all sound and movement ceased and was satisfied that the Robins had really gone to sleep there. Most of them chose the lower branches that stretch out over the lawn. This is the first time I have ever known Robins to aspire in these lindens to roost but during former years scattered birds have occasionally taken refuge there after dark when something has appeared to disturb them in the blos.

West Garmouth, Mass.

1906

July 26

On July 14th Capt Miss Beetha M. Saltmarsh and Miss Helen Farnsworth found five Thick-knee eggs lying together in a hollow in the ground not far from West Garmouth. These ladies, who are friends of Will & Abner Stone, are passing the summer in a cranberry house near the shore of a creek opposite Great Island. A struggling settlement of cheap cottages and a small hotel have been recently built here. From this settlement a wide road has been cut within a few years, (perhaps) through the woods to Hyannis (I believe). ~~The egg~~ It is used only in summer when the hotel and cottages are open and then but seldom. The egg was found about quarter of a mile from the settlement where the road is bordered on both sides by dense woods of young white pines. The ladies took two of them on the 14th and showed the rest to Will Stone on the 15th when the morning after were taken. No bird was seen on either occasion nor could Will Stone detect any tracks of weasels, beaver or birds about the spot where he wanted it. A Thick-knee's nest with young was afterwards found, however, in a hollow ten feet north for from the place. Will Stone showed me two of the egg when I reached his house at South Garmouth on the evening of the 25th after his. Stone was down over to West Garmouth this morning & calling on the cranberry house got Miss Saltmarsh who pointed us to the spot where the egg had been found. It was a level exposure of dry yellowish sand mixed with gravel and perfectly bare of vegetation over a floor of several layers of sand beyond which were tufts of grass & weeds growing in slightly richer soil. Near

Set of 5
Thick-knee
egg found
on the
ground in
a sandy
hollow.

1906

July 21
(No 2)

The middle of the open space was a saucer-shaped hollow which I found measured $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches across by 3 inches in depth at the deepest place. This was the center of the hollow to which the bottom sloped evenly from every side and at which lay the five eggs where the nest (?) was first found. The great width of the hollow makes it seem improbable that it could have been designed to serve as a nest of a bird no larger than a Flicker but it had every appearance of having been scooped out by some bird or beast. It was almost perfectly round and also symmetrical and the sandy soil was heaped up around the edge in a slight but obvious rim. There were no other hollows of any kind on the sandy flat, which lay between the slightly wooded wood track and the birching pines. The nest (?) was about five feet from the mouse hole. With Starn you see his two eggs and the Colins one of those that they had taken. When I blew these the specimens (out August 2) I found that they were addled and that the contents, although liquid, filled seven eighths of the shell of each. The shells of two of the eggs were discolored by blackish stains but the third egg was not thus disfigured. These conditions lead me to conclude that the eggs may have been laid a month or more ago and perhaps as early as the middle of May. Two theories occur to me (1) That a Flicker having had his nest in a tree or house destroyed just as he was about to begin laying hurriedly scooped a hollow in the sand & deposited his eggs there, soon afterwards deserting (2) That some boy took the eggs from a tree and arranged them in a bogus nest which he made by the roadside hoping thereby to deceive some connoisseur of chance found by.

1906.

August 18

Clear, calm, hot.

Came to Concord this morning & drove down to Davis Hill reaching there about 11 a.m. In the late afternoon I was in the woods behind the hill a Cat bird, a Black & White Creeper (singing freely & brokenly) and a Redstart. Flocks of Robins were passing very few minutes. Two Kingbirds. A flock of 13 Cedar Birds flying over the swamp.

After supper I saddled up to Mount Dam Boggs. It was calm and warm with a brilliant sunset, the sky filled with big clouds. Red-woods were flying about in small parties and going to roost in the tops of pines and oaks. Something alarmed them finally when they rose from different places and flew off unobserved. A flock of 14 Barn Swallows passed & crossed several times. I heard them calling after it was too dark to see them. Neither Towhees nor I has them for some time when they were here. They are less numerous now than they were a week or two ago. Two Swamp Sparrows were in full song & I heard a Maryland Yellow throat give the flight song twice. A Northern was from the marsh in line & flew off flapping almost as rapidly as a Duck. Two Song Sparrows were calling near me at intervals. One of them made a peeping sound not unlike a Hyla & then changed to a too, too, too note which I mistook at first for the distant humming of a Northern. As twilight was passing into night a Night Hawk seemed close past me & a Whippoorwill gave four repetitions of its long note as the last Redstart showed

Concord, Mass.

1906.

Aug. 19

Clear & intensely hot with light S.W. wind.

A rather large mixed flock, composed chiefly of Warblers, spent the day on Ball's Hill ranging along its entire length and chiefly frequenting the trees at its base on the banks of the river. They appeared near the cabin about 10 a.m. and descending to the bottom bushes outside the outer line of aspen bathed by dozens in the shallow water among the stems of these bushes. While thus engaged and a little later when I attracted them close about me by "singing" I had good opportunities for counting or closely estimating the numbers of the flock. It contained 4 or 5 Chickadees, 3 or 4 Red-eyed Vireos, 4 or 5 Black & White Anisels, at least three Nashville Warblers, a beautiful ♂ Golden-wing with full black throat and other markings of the autumnal plumage, 4 or 5 Black-throated Green Warblers, 5 Chestnut-sided Warblers, a pair of Black-burnians (both apparently young but in full autumnal plumage) and a ♀ or young ♂ Redstart. None of these birds were seen about the hill yesterday nor could I find a single small bird of any kind elsewhere to-day at least in the woods which I examined rather carefully on my way to the farm in the afternoon.

Mr. Forbush, who has been spending the summer at Ball's Hill, tells me that this is the first flock of Warblers of any size that he has seen there. I have little doubt that they come from farther north although all of them belonged to species that breed in my woods. Shortly after dark this evening and late into the night I heard Warblers calling in the air overhead but the flight was not a heavy one, apparently.

Concord, Mass.

1906.

Aug. 19
(No 2)

The Benson family tell me that a small Hawk (probably a Sharp-shinned) appeared in one of the alders that shade their house on the other side (I think on Friday the 17th) and soon afterwards flew from the tree carrying a nest in its talons. This it dropped not far off and within the nest were three young birds, dying or dead, on the ground. Forbush, who saw them afterwards, tells me that they were young Chipping Sparrows. I think that a pair of Sharp-shins raised their brood this year in the pine woods at the northwestern extremity of the Green Field & that the young are still lingering near at hand. I found what I took to be the nest last week but did not visit it.

A small
Hawk
carries a
Chippy's nest

Coopers Hawks were apparently absent from our woods during May & June although I saw them frequently about the farm in April. A week ago to-day (this is on August 12th) I was passing the southern end of Green Field when a shrill, screaming cree-cree cree-cree-cree attracted my attention. I recognized it as one of the cry of a Hawk but of what particular species I was in some doubt until I saw a Cooper's Hawk fly from the woods and plunge down in the sweet grass near the middle of the field. A minute or two later it flew back to the edge of the woods where it alighted on a flower post and where I soon discovered another Hawk of the same kind perched on a neighboring post. Both were evidently young birds. They flapped their wings & squealed every few minutes. Benson tells me that he has seen two of them together in the field lately.

Young Cooper's
Hawks.
Their cries

Concord, Mass.

1906

Aug. 25

Brilliantly clear with light E. wind. Very cool in morning & evening but warm in middle of day.

About 200 Swallows appeared at Ball's Hill this evening shortly after sunset. Judging by their voices all were Barn Swallows. For a time they skimmed back and forth low over the river and its bordering woods but they all kept close together and were evidently not feeding. Indeed they behaved not unlike a large flock of Peeps turning & wheeling abruptly as if at a signal given by some accepted leader, when pursuing a direct course, moving very simply. At length they rose in a broad spiral sweep to a height of two or three hundred feet and started off in a southerly direction looking like an immense mass of fluff against the bright light in the western sky. For some time after they had become lost to sight in the distance I could still hear their voices but these finally became inaudible. Five minutes later a small portion of the flock - certainly not more than fifty birds - returned and swept down to the river where we saw or heard them flying about until it was nearly dark. What became of the remaining birds I cannot say. It certainly looked as if they departed on migration but it may have been a false start like the one I witnessed at Hurdsguy a few years ago. But even if there were no old birds back false starts indicate that the real one is made at evening & that the birds migrate by night?

Concord, Mass.

1906.

Sept. 5

Brilliantly clear & pleasantly cool with light easterly to westerly winds.

About 8 a.m. a large flock of Chimney Swifts which I think were without doubt migrants from former winter of our frozen meadows flying at a considerable height and in every direction evidently hovering for insects. There were just fifty birds in the flock. Soon after I discovered them a brisk easterly wind started and the Swifts drifted before it towards the westward. I did not see them again but at evening a little flock of five passed Ross's Hill flying towards the east.

Large flock
of migrating
Swifts

A flock of about 125 Swallows appeared over the river opposite the Cabot shortly after 3 p.m. and flew back & forth in a nervous, excited & apparently aimless way until nearly dark. I think they were too high to see for any purpose. Judging by their notes the majority were Barn Swallows but I heard the unmistakable flight calls of Barn Swallows many times & those of Tree Swallows more than once.

Mixed flock
of Swallows

H. W. Henshaw & I had a fine opportunity to watch a ♀ Cape May Warbler this forenoon. We found it in Birch Field about 10 o'clock and had it under observation, usually at close range, for 15 or 20 minutes. It was in low gray birches feeding busily (apparently on the greenish birch *Aphis*) in company with a Black poll Warbler & a Black & White Creeper. The Cape May was very tame & sluggish, paying little or no heed to our near presence & spending minutes at a time on the same branch picking off *Aphids* from the leaves & twigs in a deliberate leisurely way. It was in full fresh autumn plumage. The fine brownish streaking of the breast was conspicuous & we saw the greenish yellow of the wing clearly. In short the bird was absolutely identified by us.

Cape May
Warbler.

1906.
Sept 9

Brilliantly clear and delightfully warm with light,
dry west winds.

A bird wave of unusual magnitude rolled down
from the north last night. It is interesting that it
should have come during the warmest night of a
warm stormless week and that the birds should have
all pushed on after but a single day of rest. That
they did this seems to me nearly certain for the
air was evidently filled with them from shortly
after dark till evening twilight about 9.30 P.M. After
that their chirping became less and less frequent
and when I went to bed at 11 P.M. it had
almost wholly ceased. Mr. Fiebrich who slept in
the open air tells me that he wakened at 2 a.m.
with mowing & chirping for some time without hearing
a single note. The bulk of the flyers passed only
about two hours or from 7.30 to 9.30 P.M.

During the day the woods and thickets were
alive with warblers most of which were Black-jacks.
Of these there were about 25 on Ball's Hill and
not less than fifty in Bird Field. In the latter
place H. W. Hudson & I found among the Black-jacks
one Orange-crowned Warbler, a Bay-Breast, 3 or 4
Black-throated Greys, & a Redstart. At Ball's Hill
I noted a Nashville Warbler, a Connecticut Warbler
& a Leased Redstart.

The Bay-Breast seen in Bird Field was
an adult ♂ in autumn plumage. It showed traces
of the black head markings and a broad buffy
strip of chestnut along each side.

1906

Sept 9.
(No 2)

The Orange crowned Warbler was a highly colored one exceptionally yellow beneath. Heaton and I had it under close observation for a minute or two at distances varying from eight to ten yards. It was in low gray birches. The warblers were very active but it did not seem to be one with any more especially nervous. Several Black-jacks were feeding within or very near it. It uttered no sound that we heard.

Orange crowned
Warbler

The Connecticut Warbler was among dense young white pines on the south slope of Ball's Hill & within a few yards of our wood shed. I think it started up from the ground at my approach but when I first saw it and for ten or twelve minutes afterwards it was among the lower (chiefly dead) branches of the pines. Here it hopped from twig to twig keeping absorbed as much as possible behind the stems of the trees and clusters of their foliage but craving it well to keep out of my view. I stood still for a minute. It was a trim, sleek bird but rather ungainly of movement hopping rather heavily & clumsily as if not at home among the branches and lifting its tail much after the manner of a Maryland Yellowthroat but more slowly & with less vigor. I saw every detail of its characteristic coloring, including the bright white eye ring, with perfect distinctness. This is the first Connecticut Warbler that I have ever noted on Ball's Hill.

Connecticut
Warbler

It was apart from all other birds & it was as tame as I was watching it. It was tame & evidently very anxious to walk out from what I was:

1906.

Sept. 9
(No 3)

Whippoorwill

A Whippoorwill which has spent the entire summer in the woods just across the river from Boker's Hill is still there and of late has been singing about as freely and quite as vigorously & well as he did in June. On the evening of September 6th he was in full song for fifteen minutes during which he over gave 157 repetitions of his notes without stopping for breath.

This evening I counted 48 repetitions of his cry without pause. At day break on the morning of the 3rd and at the same time on the following morning this or another Whippoorwill fluttered several times about a head with which was suspended over a bed in the open air in front of the wood shed on Pine Hill where Mr. F. Orbach had spent the night. Mr. F. Orbach thinks the bird was picking off mosquitoes that were buzzing about the head. He heard its buzz or click its bird repeatedly and felt the fanning of its wings against his face. He also heard it click as it struggled with one another thrud on the ground near his bed. He comes to the net several times on each occasion and often it had gone nearly all the mosquitoes were gone also. He thinks it springs up from the ground to flutter about the net but on each occasion he was lying in such a position that he could not see it distinctly in the dim light.

1906.

Sept. 10.

Brilliantly clear with cool E. wind.

There were only a few Warblers about Boss's Hill to-day but H. W. Henshaw found swarms of fifty in Birch Field. Most of them were Black-polls but among them he saw an Orange-crowned Warbler and a Black-throated Blue (♂). The Orange-crown was very tame and Mr. Henshaw stood within ten or twelve feet of it for about five minutes watching it as it explored the foliage of a low grey birch.

Another
Orange-crowned
Warbler

As H. W. Henshaw and I were out in the evening census about 40' above the river this afternoon we saw three Wood Ducks. They came from Great Meadows and crossed the river near the little cypress where the Blackbirds congregate, flying rather slowly at a height of about 60 feet and passing us within about 100 yds, finally disappearing beyond the trees that crown the western slope of Boss's Hill. As they were to the eastward of us the sunlight brought out all the details ^{their} coloring with great distinctness. Two of the birds were drakes just beginning to assume the full plumage. The third bird was large enough for a male (its size was quite equal to those of the other two) but it was colored like a female. I think that it was ^{born} from a young drake and that the other two were probably old drakes passing from the "eclipse" plumage into the nuptial (i.e. full autumn) plumage. It seemed good to see Wood Ducks on Concord River again.

Wood Ducks

1906

Sept. 12

Forenoon cloudy; most of afternoon clear, very warm & sultry all day.
Went S.W.

Yesterday was an off day for birds. We saw very few of them anywhere. Evidently the heavy flocks of the 9th & 10th passed quickly on. Another & rather considerable wave arrived last night. It was composed almost wholly of Black-bills. We saw or heard them nearly everywhere. In the morning they were scattered & exceedingly restless. We repeatedly saw them rise high in air and fly off over the woods towards the South as if starting on migration. Migrants of other kinds were noted moving South. About 9 a.m. three Chipping Swifts & a House Wren passed over the farm house with a dozen or more Black-bills following after them.

Just before noon as H. W. Hershaw & I were standing in the garden at the rear of the farm house we heard twice, at first rather faintly but the second time loud & clear, and apparently coming from directly overhead, the unmistakable flight call of a Golden Plover - the double, rolling note, falter in tone yet distinctly musical or, at best, very pleasing to the ear, especially of an old sportsman. It may be written crice. The bird seemed to be flying ~~undisturbed~~ & at a great height but we could not see it. The sky was filled with low-hanging billowy clouds at the time.

In the early afternoon we found about fifty Robins among the young birches in Birch Field. All that we identified save two were Black-bills. One of the exceptions was a Chestnut-sided Robin, the other an Olive-backed.

1906.

Sept. 12
(No 2)

About five o'clock this afternoon H. W. Henshaw and I were strolling along the roadway that winds through our berry pasture when I suddenly caught sight of a Deer. It was in an opening among some blueberry bushes within thirty yards of us. A moment later another and larger one appeared close to the first. Both animals looked at us intently but without showing fear. Presently they moved slowly on & were lost to sight among the bushes. We took the road back and as we rounded the bend saw them again on the edge of the berry swamp. This they saw entered. Thinking they would remain there we followed the road across the swamp. When we reached the field we were greatly surprised to see the Deer standing together near the bars on the further side. As we seemed suspicious to them they walked quietly through the gap into the wood. After standing there for a moment they trotted up the driveway to the old farmhouse stopping directly in front of the front door. Here they remained motionless, side by side, for fully a minute, their ears pointed forward, regarding each other with apparent suspicion a large Gray Squirrel that was sitting in the middle of one corner. Finally they turned back trotted down the grassy slope & up the road to Benjamin's field. Pausing for a moment they next scaled, one close after the other, the larger one leading, over the stone wall into the field all on which they seemed picking somewhat indifferently at the clover heads.

In all we had them under observation about twenty minutes. One was an old & full sized doe, the other a fawn of the year still spotted on the hips but well grown for the season. Only once when they crossed the well - did not see either of them cross. They went at the other time was a few balls on a large basket set all ground

We see two
Deer in
the berry
pasture &
later in
the clover
yard of the
farmhouse.

1906.

Oct. 4

Brilliantly clear with light S. E. wind. Very warm for October.

As I was passing through the old lane at the farm late this afternoon I came upon a flock of a dozen or more White-throated Sparrows. They were eating Concord grapes in a vine that festoons a large wild cherry tree. I watched them for ten or fifteen minutes and saw them peck into the grapes and dig out and swallow the pulp. A considerable percentage of the grapes (certainly one tenth) had been mutilated or destroyed in about by these Sparrows.

White-throated

Sparrows

eating grapes.

Among the White-throated Sparrows just mentioned was a Scarce Tanager and adult (or nearly adult) male showing no red but having mainly jet black feathers on the wing coverts. He also was eating grapes. I saw him take two from a bunch by fluttering beneath them (or rather by making a fluttering flight upward) and seizing them in his bill. The first one gave him much trouble because of its large size. After separating the pulp from the skin he seemed unable to secure either part & finally dropped him. With the second he was more successful swallowing the entire pulp at a gulp & discarding the skin. His bill dripping with the juice glistened in the sunlight.

Scarce Tanager

eating grapes.

(A similarly colored bird (no doubt the same individual) was in the same place on the morning of October 9.)

Birds have been very numerous here the past few days. I saw fully 100 Mocking-birds on September 30 and about 50 on October 2.

About 8 A. M. on September 30 Forbush & I heard the flight call of a Golden Plover a dozen times or more.

Golden

Plover.

at first loud & clear, finally dying away in the distance. The bird was apparently flying S. W. It passed very near Ball's Hill. Forbush is confident he heard the same call again about 2 P. M.

1906

Oct. 7

Brilliantly clear with cold & very strong N.W. wind.

Birds appeared to be comparatively scarce yesterday and I saw still fewer to-day. The flight of Black-birds is evidently nearly over. They have been especially abundant this autumn.

As I was standing in the clover yard at the farm about sunset a White-breasted Nuthatch flew into the elm at the east end of the shed and immediately entered a hole in the under side of a dead branch which was used as a sleeping chamber by a Downy Woodpecker early last spring. That the Nuthatch spent the night there on the present occasion I do not doubt. It entered the hole very quietly as if in the habit of frequenting it.

While on my way back to Ross's Hill I had an interesting experience with a Fox. I was walking rapidly along the wooded road that leads from the Brick Church house to Browns when I heard an outbreak of loud, shrill Squeals very near at hand. They seemed to come from the pasture on my right but although the ground beyond the wall that bordered the road was perfectly open & grassy I could see nothing there at first. Indeed the outbreak had been there reported before I made out, through the thin screen of bushes that lined the wood the form of a remarkably large & exceedingly gaunt Fox, crouching in the short asphodel grass near a large boulder & seeing the yards from me. The next instant he sprang high into the air & as he descended thrust his sharp nose into a hole in the turf. Just as he did so the Squealing sound again came to my ears. He then drew back a few feet & turned his head away from the hole. These maneuvers were repeated several times. Finally he drew his head out

1906.

Oct. 7

(No. 2)

of the hole he shook it violently as a dog does when
swallowing a rat but I could not see that he had any thing in
his teeth. Immediately after this he walked to the top of the
boulder and sat down on his haunches, then looking off over
the open country to the south as if observing the wind.
Then he turned and came trotting away like a wild dog
towards a bar way that opened into the cane or road
where I was standing. As he came out into the road he
was within ten yards of me. Although I remained perfectly
motionless he at once rose on his hind legs and threw some
sniffles off up the road, making a succession of long,
light bounds. Finally he jumped over the stone wall on
my left & disappeared in the oak woods. His fur was
of a brownish yellow color & seemingly thin & scaly. Over
his back looked brown & faded. I have rarely seen so
large & gaunt a fox. What he was doing in this
position I do not certainly know. As the light was fading
(it was now half an hour after sunset) I did not go
to the place where he was jumping about but I should
fear it already too narrow. He would have had
either a mouse or a shrew, probably in lawn. I doubt
if he ate it. I could see his nose & ears plainly when
he raised his head after the final shudder & nothing
moved in his jaws. The preliminary jumps & bounded
moves I took to be played in character. They were
very like those practiced by our Irish terrier, "Bony," when
he is chasing a mouse or rat that is cut off from
its hole & unable to escape.

(Visiting the scene of this incident next morning I found on the
top of the large boulder where the fox sat down a short-tailed shrew
(Blarina brevicauda). It was a fully mature specimen in perfect health. It
bore no external marks of injury but the skull had been crushed & there
was a little dried blood about the mouth & nostrils.)

1906

Oct. 8

Brilliantly clear with light N.W. wind changing to S.W. in late P.M. Very cool last night but without frost. Therm. 34° at the farm at day break this morning.

The maple foliage in the swamps and along the borders of the river woodlands reached what I take to be its maximum brilliancy to-day. It has turned very suddenly & also very late this year.

The country was alive with birds this morning, a heavy foglet evidently having arrived during last night. At 8 a.m. we had close about the cabin several Chickadees, 3 or 4 Golden-Owls, 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 4 or 5 Black-polls, 2 or 3 Yellow-rumps, a Red-eyed Vireo, 3 Hermit Thrushes, a Swainson's Thrush, a Purple Finch, 3 Goldfinches, a Pine Warbler, a Solitary Vireo, 3 or 4 Allen Jays & several Crows. Bluebirds, Titmice & a Wren who had not yet left. A Canada Warbler was noted later in the day.

At the farm I saw most of these species & in addition a Sharp-shin. Peewee Birds were numerous everywhere I went. I saw at least a dozen Black-polls during the day. As I was following the road that leads from Benson's to the school house I started two Doves from the ground among some bushes.

As I was watching two Hermit Thrushes early this morning one of them flew into the open door of our store shed (the "horse shed," so-called). It remained inside this bird-dog for fully a minute. Later in the day Mr. Fortsch saw a Hermit fly out of this bird-dog.

One of the Ruby-crowns seen near the cabin this morning sang almost continuously for fifteen or twenty minutes & nearly if not quite as well as in spring. This happened about 8 o'clock. At the same time a Solitary Vireo & a Pine Warbler were singing near at hand but in rather broken & lost tones.

1906.

Oct. 12

Brilliantly clear with light N.W. wind. Heavy white frost at day break. Middle of day pleasantly warm.

There were many small birds to-day, scattered about singly or in small flocks. White-throated Sparrows were perhaps the most numerous of the northern migrants.

Black-jack Wrens are drumming fast. I saw only about half a dozen. One of them in low odds near Pine Pole was feeding in company with an House Wren.

Saw a Catbird near the cabin and heard a Maryland Yellow-throat at the farm near the pond in our berry pasture.

Stated five Canada Doves this morning among some dwarf young trees on the borders of a woody field near the road that leads from Burns' to the school house & saw them near at evening flying into the oak woods at the rear of Burns' house.

As I was standing on the edge of the birch in front of the cabin, about half an hour after sunset, an Owl which I took to be a Short-eared appeared high in air over Ball's Hill, flying southward. As it passed over the river and the Bowling ground on the Bedford side it moved on a wavy level plane, alternately flapping and sailing, inclining first to one side & then to the other as if uncertain of its course. After crossing the belt of woods beyond the meadows it made a great arch and then descended rather steeply apparently to the meadows lying to the southwest of the dry wooded ground. This bird was certainly either a Short-eared or a Long-eared Owl. Its erratic flight & the fact that it was evidently attracted by the grassy meadows led me to conclude that it was probably a Short-eared.

Short (?)
and Owl.
seen at
evening.

1906

Oct. 14

Brilliantly clear with light S. wind. Ther. 24° yesterday morning, 28° this morning. On both mornings the entire face of nature was white with hoar frost. The flowers were nearly all killed yesterday and most of the red maples have cast their leaves. At sunrise yesterday I watched them of a tree at Balls Hill falling one after another, carelessly, for half an hour. There was not a breath of wind at the time.

Early yesterday morning as I was looking off over the frost covered meadows and admiring their silvery gleam the thought occurred to me that it was just the right time & place to have the first Snow Bunting. A moment later the clear whistled call of one of these birds came to my ear from the blue dome above. I heard the loud hoarse tones and growing fainter in the distance towards the south-west.

I heard Red Crossbills yesterday morning in two places and this morning the calls of what must have been a large flock were heard by I think I was at Balls Hill.

As I was paddling across the river early this forenoon a Sharp-shinned Hawk appeared over Balls Hill soaring in several circles high in air. As I watched it five Titlarks made what seemed to be a timid, half-hearted attempt to mob it. They darted about & around it in erratic courses at times passing apparently within a yard or so of it. The little Hawk paid not the slightest attention to them but continued to swing around and around in the blue sky on set wings.

1906
Oct. 21

Cloudy with strong, cold N. E. wind.

As I was watching a number of juncos
flitting about among some low bushes by the roadside
one of them sang a dozen times or more giving the
first note in low almost whispering tone and ~~after~~
several of the interpolated chuck & melodious ~~again~~
notes used in early spring. If I am not mistaken
in my recollection this is the first time I have
ever heard a junco sing in autumn. It happened
about nine o'clock in the forenoon.

Juncos sing
in autumn

" 25

Forenoon cloudy with S. E. wind and frequent heavy
showers; afternoon sunny with light W. wind. Very warm all day.

About half an hour before sunrise this morning Gilbert
discovered and pointed out to me a Coon Skunk that
was busily engaged in feeding in the field across the road.
From my bed room window with the aid of a good glass
I watched it for fifteen or twenty minutes. During this
time it did not cover a larger space than that of a
small room although it was almost constantly in slow
motion walking (or rather crawling) back & forth over the smooth,
grassy surface into which it frequently thrust its nose although
I did not see it dig nor could I find on subsequent
inspection of the ground any of the loose pit-like holes so
often seen when skunks have been at work. I concluded
therefore that this skunk was probably searching for & picking
up crickets or grasshoppers without attempting to dig for them.
It had much white in its tail and a broad white
blaze on the forehead but elsewhere it appeared to

1906

Oct. 25
(no 2)

be uniformly black. Both colors made it exceedingly conspicuous out in the broad green field. When, at length, it was disturbed by the distant rattle of a wagon approaching along the road (but still an eighth of a mile away) I was surprised to see it start off at a brisk trot which soon changed to a really fast and very easy gallop (certainly fast enough to put a man to his top speed to keep up with it) which quickly carried it out of sight into the brushy swamp beyond the field. I saw first to last its fine, long, fan-like tail was not once raised above, nor even to, the line of the animal's back nor was it jerked about or up & down perceptibly. On the contrary, both when walking slowly and trotting or galloping rapidly, this skunk seemed to ~~sway~~ trail its tail behind it over the ground as if the appendage were securely fastened to its stem and had no other means of support. This ~~fact~~ was the more remarkable because of the fact that the grass was very wet at the time.

1906.

October 29

Clear & cool with strong N. W. wind.

While waiting for the train at the West Bedford Station this morning I noted a flock of six white-winged Crossbills, the first I have seen here since November, 1903. They were on wing, flying over the open fields, and they passed within forty yards of me. I heard one or more of them utter repeatedly both flight calls the peenk note and the dry, woody chatter which so closely resembles that of the Lesser Redpoll. I noted between those similar sounds which I heard only very faintly, yesterday, morning, in Passaic, and which I suspected at the time to come from white-winged Crossbills were really made by that species. However that may be there is no question whatever as to the identification of the birds seen to-day.

As I was returning to the farm house this evening from the river I passed through Birch Field. It was past six o'clock and all the light had faded from the west but in the east a merely full moon shone at intervals through rents in the curtain of dark clouds that merely filled the sky. Earlier in the day they had brought much wind but at this hour only a faint breeze stirred in the tops of the naked birches. I had stopped to admire the whiteness of their stems in the moonlight when a Saw-whet Owl called about a hundred yards off. I imitated its double whistle (hee-hee) & the next moment I distinctly heard its wings flutter in a pitch pine within 30 yards of me. Soon after this the bird called again but I could not see it. Several minutes elapsed and again the whistle sounded but the bird had moved farther off. I stood at some distance but I followed the sound on ear. Once the bird gave four whistles (hee-hee-hee-hee) & over them, but

1906

Oct. 29

(No 2)

usually there were but two. The note although whistle-like in character and easily imitated by the human whistle, has a peculiarly deep and also somewhat resonant quality with its notes it decidedly impressive when heard under conditions such as those which I have just described. It is very loud at times and really startling in its intensity. Once to-night the bird followed it (that is the double whistle) by a low chattering sound which I do not remember ever hearing a Saw-whet utter before. It was quite evident that the bird heard on this occasion was moving rather restlessly from place to place. It called about once every two or three minutes and never more than once (I thought) in the same spot. When it moved its position it ordinarily went only thirty or forty yards before alighting again. All this I could tell by the evidence of my ears alone for I did not ever see the bird.

1906.

Oct. 30

Cloudy with light rain in afternoon. Tomorrow calm & mild.

As I stepped out of doors about seven o'clock this morning I saw upwards of twenty Robins fly from the island. They rose all together like a flock of Blackbirds and after mounting high into the air made off due south. I watched them until they passed beyond my range of vision but they did not change their course in the slightest. This fact with the height at which they flew and the compact body which they formed led me to conclude that they were actually starting on migration.

A large migrating flock of Crows appeared at Ball's Hill about 8.30 a.m. coming from the north-east and settling in the meadows opposite the cabin where they fairly blackened the surface of the marshy ground. Here they remained for a few minutes moving actively about apparently in search of a breakfast. I wondered what food could be found in such a place in sufficient abundance to satisfy the needs of such a multitude. When they left the marsh they alighted in the trees that skirt its southern margin where they cawed vociferously making a great clamor. They were in light columns about twenty numbers. I did not see where they finally went.

1906
Nov. 26

The past autumn has been remarkable for the large number and variety of irregular bird visitors from farther north. The following species have occurred.

Pine Siskin. At Concord, Mass. I noted Siskins first on October 2. During the remainder of that month they were seen on almost daily occasions in numerous flocks. On October 21 I counted ninety-one birds feeding together in the top of a young birch in Bird Field. Most of the birds seen were in or near their breeding which were abundantly supplied with seed cones. Pine Siskins were reported from many other places in S. Massachusetts during October & November. Indeed the flight was evidently widespread & very heavy.

Lesser Redpoll. - A single bird was seen by Bradford Torrey in October at Nahant. A few others have been since reported. I have seen none as yet.

Pine Grosbeak. Under date of Portland, Connecticut, Nov. 3, 1906, Jon H. Sage writes me "Pine Grosbeaks here today. He afterwards told me that a flock of eight birds (all gray ones) were met with & one or two of them killed."

Red Crossbill. - Noted by me at Concord, Mass., on October 13, 14, 15 & 22 on or near birds being banded on each of these dates. There were other reports for eastern Mass. but not many of them. Walter Dean saw a single ♂ in red plumage in Fresh Pond, Lynn, Cambridge on Nov. 25. It was with a number of White-wings.

1906

Nov. 26

(cont.)

White-winged Crossbill. On October 29 I saw a flock of six White-winged Crossbills flying over the open fields near the Railroad Station at West Bedford, Mass.

On November 1 I saw six more (a single bird and five birds together) in Concord. During the first week of November Crossbills of this species were noted on many sunny places in eastern Mass. They are still here in numbers I am told. Walter Dean saw about twenty five only yesterday, in Fish Pond Swamp.

During the A. O. C. meeting at Washington (I wrote on November 16) Mr. Fleming of Toronto told a single

White-winged Crossbill was seen at Georgetown, N. H. Some of the members of the Union told me the species had been noted in the upper Mississippi valley as well as in West England.

Red-bellied Nuthatch. - A moderate flight at Concord where I noted the first bird on September 4, & where the species was present in small numbers through October. Walter Dean tells me he saw a bird in Fish Pond Swamp on November 28.

Snowy Owl. On Nov. 7 I saw in the flock in the shop of Walter D. Hinks at Portland, Me. two Snowy Owls in the flock that had been killed only a day or two previously near that city as I was told. One of them was the whitest bird I have ever seen taken in the east. Mr. Fleming of Toronto told me a week later that a good flight had reached that part of Canada just before he left there to attend the A. O. C. meeting. Most of the birds which had been killed were exceptionally white, he said.

1906

Nov. 26
(no 3)

(Swamp Owl) J. H. Sage writes me from Portland, Maine, under date of November 21, 1906 "A Swamp Owl was shot in this vicinity yesterday and brought to me. It had been seen for nearly a week."

Hawk Owl. When at Portland Me., on Nov. 7 I saw a mounted Hawk Owl which had been taken only a short time before November in Maine. James (one of Hinde's taxidermists) who showed it to me said that he had heard of others & thought there had been a western extension flight into Maine.

God-hawks. When in Portland, Me., on Nov. 7-9 saw several a number of God-hawks which had been taken in Maine within the last week or two and mounted at W. D. Hinde's establishment. Most of them were young birds. Writing from Providence R. I. on November 9th Angell & Cook say "We are receiving a remarkable number of adult God-hawks 90% of whom have parts of Ruffed Grouse in stomach or crop. Grouse are very plentiful here this season which may account for the presence of so many God-hawks."

Concord, Mass.

1906.

Nov. 27

Cloudy with a fine drizzle of rain. Forenoon calm; a low N. E. wind in afternoon.

Left Concord by 8.34 a.m. train. Drove directly to the farm and spent most of the day in the house, but got into the woods twice. About noon I went down into the Beaver Run where I found a little flock of wintering birds comprising 6 Chickadees, a Brown Creeper, 2 Golden-Crests and two White breasted Nuthatches. Another ~~but~~ apparently different flock, which I saw later in the afternoon in Puffer Rock woods, contained 4 or 5 Chickadees, ~~the~~ Golden-Crests and a single White breasted Nuthatch. Still another flock composed wholly of Chickadees frequented the trees about the house during most of the day. Soon after dinner I heard near the house a 7-Allen calling and saw a flock of 4 Lesser Redpolls flying over the field towards the Beaver Run uttering their flight calls.

During the afternoon walk I started 4 Partridge together in the woods near the Beaver Spring and a single bird from down brook on the hillside just below the old barn. This is a greater number than I often if ever, saw in a day last October & I think that there must have been a decided increase in the numbers of the birds in our woods since I left Concord.

When I reached the farm this morning I found a dozen or more English Sparrows collected in the big forgetful bush in front of the house. These birds have increased very considerably in this neighborhood during the last year probably because of the fact that I began feeding chickens last Spring and have now a flock of fifty or more which are fed out of doors.

As I was returning from the Riekin place this morn a Short-tailed Shrew attempted to cross the public road about 20 feet in advance of me. On reaching the middle of the road it stopped, & then ran swiftly back into the bushes. Apparently it saw me despite its almost microscopic eyes. I was walking almost as usual at the time.

Concord, Mass.

1906

Nov. 27

(No 2)

When I visited the farm to-day Mr. Jones told me that Henry Lawrence shot a large Hawk last Saturday (November 24) and that it fell in our poultry yard. I went to the Lawrence's after dinner and was shown the bird which had been thrown into a wagon in the barn on top of a load of corn fodder. As I had suspected right from the first that it was a Goshawk, a fine female in fully adult plumage. I bought it for fifty cents and brought it home to be mounted by Nelson. Henry Lawrence gave me the following account of the circumstances attending its capture: About noon he heard a great outcry from the poultry which were scattered along the road leading past the house. The next instant he saw that a large Hawk had seized a full grown rooster which he was vainly attempting to carry off. Lawrence rushed into the house for his gun and returning to the road found the Hawk in the same place standing on the ground, close to a stone wall, watching the rooster who lay on his belly motionless but with his head raised and evidently still alive. As the two birds were only a foot or two apart Lawrence hesitated about firing lest he might injure his rooster. He kept moving nearer under cover of the wall until he was close to the Hawk when he shot at its head but missed. At the report the Hawk rose and Lawrence fired again wounding the bird so badly that it flew only about one hundred yards dropping dead in our poultry yard, as I have said. Lawrence tells me that he shot a Goshawk seven years ago on one of the farms half a mile or so up the road when it was chasing down hens. It was very foolish paying no attention to him as he humbly approached it in an open field. The rooster seized by the bird which he killed last Saturday is not only still alive but apparently fast recovering from its injuries. I visited the spot where the Hawk caught it and found the ground thickly strewn with its feathers. It was a gray & white bird of the Plymouth Rock kind.

Measurements of the Goshawk shot in Concord, Mass. by

Henry Lawrence, November 24, 1906. Taken by Walter Deane, Nov. 28, 1906.

Weight - - - - - 38 1/2 oz.
Length - - - - - 25 inches
Wing - - - - - 14 "
Stretch of wing - - - - - 45 "
Tarsus and toes - - - - - greenish-yellow
Iris - - - - - dull yellow.
Pupil - - - - - blue
Tail - - - - - 12 inches

1906.
Nov. 30

Cambridge, Mass.

Partly cloudy with fresh westerly winds. Rather cold.

On reaching the Museum this morning I was shown a living Woodcock which Charles E. Benson one of our gardeners had captured in our clothes yard an hour or two before. This bird, a fine Cape fencer in perfect plume and condition, must have struck against our telephone wire (which is stretched above the yard at a height of about twenty feet) while attempting to pass over or perhaps to alight in, the garden, during the night or possibly at daybreak. It had scraped itself in the usual manner all the feathers and more of the skin having been scraped off the skull over a space about a quarter of an inch in width by rather more than an inch in length extending somewhat obliquely across the top of the head from just above the left eye, to a point above but about half an inch behind the right eye. As in the case of the scalped Woodcock which was brought to me from Gage woods by a boy in April 1900 the injury just described appeared to have affected only the wings for the bird caught by Benson this morning, although unable to fly, ran about very actively before and after capture and seemed to be in excellent health and spirits. It was placed at first in an old bird cage where it trotted to and fro restlessly for an hour or more thrusting its long bill out between the wires and pressing its breast against them in futile efforts to escape.

Later in the day we transferred it to a wicker box provided with slatted sides and filled to a good depth with fresh straw in which was placed a large number of earth worms. With these creatures it seemed better contented for it soon ceased its restless movements and settled itself in a position of repose which it maintained through the day.

A Woodcock
in our
garden.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.

Dec. 1


Cloudy & chilly but not frosty. Our city shows our hills nearly as green as they were two months ago. There is no snow and the ground is not frozen to-day.

The Woodcock caught in our clothes yard yesterday is not only alive but apparently in good health and spirits to-day. It is true that he has spent most of the forenoon standing (not crawling) in a corner of his box but his large, liquid eyes are wide open at all times and full of expression. The box is on the floor of my study within four feet of my desk. At this distance I can move in my chair or even walk around the box without disturbing the bird but if I approach him much closer he shows some alarm and quickly scuttles to the further side of his prison. Whether or not he has eaten any of the earth worms I have no present means of ascertaining. He has broken the surface of the ground rather head by looking over it and it shows us signs of "burrows".

This is one of the birds
characteristic attitudes



" 2

The Woodcock must have been eating some of the worms for he is as "lively as a gig" to-day, walking rapidly about his prison and trying hard to get out. When closely approached he squats  and then springs suddenly upward using his wings for the first time and so vigorously that he strikes the burlap cover of the box (it is about 18 inches above the ground) with much force. I have heard no sound from him so far even when he has spread his wings.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906.
Dec. 2.
(No 2.)

Clear and cold with strong N. W. wind.

After a period of activity this morning (noted on the preceding page of this journal) the Captain Woodcock spent most of the day either standing or squalling in a corner of his box. At sunset, however, he began, ranging actively about moving, for the most part, with head well up at a quick firm walk very like that of a quail. He did not seem to be entirely frightened or actually nervous for he made no attempts to escape from his cage either by thrusting his bill through the slots or by springing upward. At length to my great delight he began boring keeping it up at intervals for about five minutes. Sitting in my arm chair within four feet of the box, which was chiefly if not very strongly lighted from the large window just behind me, I had a splendid opportunity (even the best that I have ever enjoyed) to watch the boring performance and to note exactly how it was done.

Captain
Woodcock

Boring for
worms

Advancing very slowly in a crouching attitude the bird would plunge his bill into the loose earth from one to three or four times before taking another forward step. The downward thrusts were made surely, vertically and less swiftly and vigorously than I had remembered or supposed. Indeed they were decidedly more energetic and emphatic than are the movements of a domestic fowl when engaged in pecking up corn. Yet despite the comparatively lively and almost seemingly almost effortless way in which they were performed the long bill was thrust almost (kept under quite) to its base in the heavy loam. After making a number

Cambridge, Mass.

1906

Dec. 2
(No 3)

of freedom and somewhat better than of this kind
the bird suddenly showed evident excitement and
after being near rapidly than before for several times
in quick succession and also swinging its head from
side to side which its bill was buried in the ground
it drew out a long & very sharp cough soon which
it held for an instant in the terminal third of its
bill (but not, as I could see clearly, at its tip) and
then quickly swallowed. Immediately after this it resumed
its search in nearly or quite the same spot and at
the third or fourth thrust captured another worm which
was about twice like the first. Afterwards it did
not have any further success although it continued
being for some time. I did not once see it stamp
over the ground or listen for the sound of moving
worms. After being and walking about it kept its
tail closed and carried it a little below the
line of the back. Since I have had it it has
made no sounds of any kind. It is fast becoming
tame and confiding. This afternoon I crawled on
the floor directly by the side of the box and looked
in at the bird, moving my face about within a
foot of it, without causing it any obvious alarm

Cambridge, Mass.

1906
Dec. 4

The Woodcock is still alive and hearty. I exhibited him at a meeting of the Metzger Club last night when his legs were placed on the table in the middle of the room under a cluster of electric lights. Here with a dozen or more men sitting close about him, some of them within two or three feet, he seemed quite undisturbed and finally, towards the close of the meeting, when one of the members was reading some notes aloud, he began bring and presently extended and swallowed a large worm. I doubt if any society of ornithologists has ever before been entertained in a similar manner. So great was the interest that when the bird captured the worm everyone crowded about the cage and the proceedings of the meeting were wholly interrupted for a time.

Later this afternoon the Woodcock was very restless for a time seeing about his prison & thrusting his bill through the bars. When Walter Deane appeared him closely he began a low grating noise not unlike that given by a western Woodcock when anxious about her young. This he repeated several times. It is the only sound we have heard from him thus far.

1906

Dec. 4
(No 2)

Mr. Francis H. Batch of Jamaica Plain gave me to-day a most interesting account of his experience with Red-bellied Nuthatches on Cape Cod (at South Orleans, I think it was) last September. During the latter half of this month the birds literally swarmed in the woods and on the sand dunes where he was shooting, hopping about on the ground among the beach grass and in the wetter parts of the woods climbing among the stems of the reeds, or sedges. On several occasions they alighted on his person decaying which was found in a pack of Shedd's water and when he was looking, well out from shore, they ^{spontaneously} started his boat and not only ran up the mast and along the boom but even climbed up the stiff, rounded slopes of a canvas sail that was bellied out by a strong wind.

Mr. Batch also told me that there was a very considerable flight of Thrusts at South Orleans last September, with the caveat, in fact, that there has been none there for years. His party killed about a dozen of these birds and many more than there were shot by some other sportsman of his acquaintance on a portion of the shore which lay beyond his own range. The birds frequented the beaches as is their usual habit.

Cambridge, Mass.

1906

Dec 5

Fate of the Woodcock.

The Woodcock that we have had in the Museum for the past five days died this morning at quarter past ten. At about ten o'clock I went into the big room and looked at the bird for the first time this morning. It was standing bunched up in the middle of the cage. It looked unwell and its eye had lost its natural brilliancy. Soil on its bill showed that it had been probing and the dirt in the cage looked as if it had been tossed about a good deal. After watching the bird for a minute or so, it moved a little, tottering as it did so. Carl then brought some worms and we put them in front of it, but it made no attempt to touch them. Once it suddenly began to throw the earth about by quite vigorous blows with its bill, first to one side, then to the other for about half a dozen times. That was the only sign of any vigor that it showed. It immediately relapsed into its former apathetic state. I took the bird in my hand for a moment thinking it might possibly eat, but without success. I then put it carefully back. It immediately lay down on its side and in a few seconds with barely a motion, beyond a slight quiver and stiffening of the legs was dead. N. Deane.

Concord, Mass.

1906.

Dec. 5

Cloudless, calm; early morning cold, temperature
above the freezing point at noon.

Spent the day at Concord superintending the
cutting of a lot of young white pines to send to Cambridge
for winter covering. We got them in the opening between
Ball's & Davis Hills. I paid no very close attention to
the work but, after the trees had been selected and marked
for cutting, I wandered widely through the woods traversing
Davis Swamp and visiting Ball's Hill & Pine Park. We
went through Birch Field on our way down in the
morning and returned via the road and the Rutchin place
at noon. In the afternoon I did not go far away from
the house.

The comparatively mild and perfectly calm weather and
clear sunshine made the conditions unusually favorable for
the birds and I saw or heard them in considerable numbers
and variety as the following list will show.

1. Golden-crested Kinglet. - (2) on Pine Ridge, (2) in Pine Park, 1 at Ball's Hill.
Also heard in Barrett Run & in Birch Field.
2. Chickadee. - (2) at farm house, (3) in Barrett Run, (2) in Pine
Ridge, (6) (with a Golden-crest) at Ball's Hill.
3. White-breasted Nuthatch. - 1 near the Old House, (2) in the
large elms at our farm house.
4. Northern Shrike. - One seen flying over the field in front of
Mr. Hutchins's house on Parkstone Hill in late P.M.
5. Lesser Redpoll. - Heard at frequent intervals in forenoon on Pine
Ridge. - On one occasion the call evidently came
from the members of a large flock.
6. Snow Bunting. - Nine birds seen flying over the fields between
Ball's & Rudolph Petersen's as we were driving towards
the farm about 1000 a.

Concord, Mass

1906.

Dec. 5

- (No 2) 7. Junco. - A flock of sixteen started, about noon, in Benson's asparagus bed whence they flew into the boarding kitchen.
8. Tree Sparrow. - One seen by the roadside near Mint Place and two found together in bushes at E. end of Ball's Hill.
9. Crow. - But one noted - flying over the orchard at our farm.
10. Blue Jay. - Three in the swamp behind Ball's Hill. They were very noisy, screaming incessantly for several minutes.
11. Downy Woodpecker. - One heard calling near Benson's.
12. Flicker. - Three together in large trees by the roadside near Mint Place place.
13. Postridge. - Started one in Birch Field and two at Ball's Hill.

Squirrels, both Red & Gray, were out in great numbers. I saw them almost everywhere, sometimes two or three together but often singly. Their numbers were about equal on the farm but in the Ball's Hill region the Grays greatly outnumbered the Reds.

Although the light covering of fresh snow (about an inch in depth) was everywhere thickly marked by the foot prints of Squirrels and mice I saw very few rabbit tracks and none at all, I think, except at Ball's Hill. Fox tracks were seen in Birch Field. I looked in vain for deer tracks. Lawrence tells me that a large Deer crossed his field and visited and feed (in the heavy pasture) late in November. This he knew from the tracks. The animal was not seen.



Journ
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Jan -